

NO.1 FOR STITCHING PLEASURE

CROSS STITCH

January 2017 Issue 270

NEW YEAR  
TREATS

# Collection

STITCHING FAVOURITES: COCKER SPANIEL, BLACK CATS

Winter Spirit

NEW  
FOR  
2017



Stitch your own calendar



Quick-stitch gift bags

GIANT  
CHART  
INCLUDED



CELEBRATE!

BEST FOR BABY  
Create an heirloom  
for a new arrival

TASTY  
FRAMES

Last-minute Christmas  
decorations you'll love





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# Welcome...

If you're anything like us, you'll love the idea of a country Christmas. The thought of snowy walks and returning home to an open fire is a wonderful dream! We wanted to sum up that feeling with our Winter Hare cover project. Snowy fields, a pretty church, striking foliage and wonderful wildlife are all waiting to be stitched – perfect to start the new year!

Talking of the new year, we know you'll love something new to get your teeth into. Turn to page 14 to start our calendar design with the perfect house and garden for every month of the year. It's a very satisfying project as you can create a whole month before moving on to the next.

If, like us, you're not quite ready for Christmas yet – let alone the thought of 2017 – we do have the loveliest last-minute card and decoration set for you to enjoy on page 22 and some speedy personalised gift bags on page 19.

Whatever your current project, large or small, we wish you happy stitching for Christmas and the new year.

*Martin Susan*

Susan & Martin Penny  
Editors

**FREE  
GIANT  
CHART!**

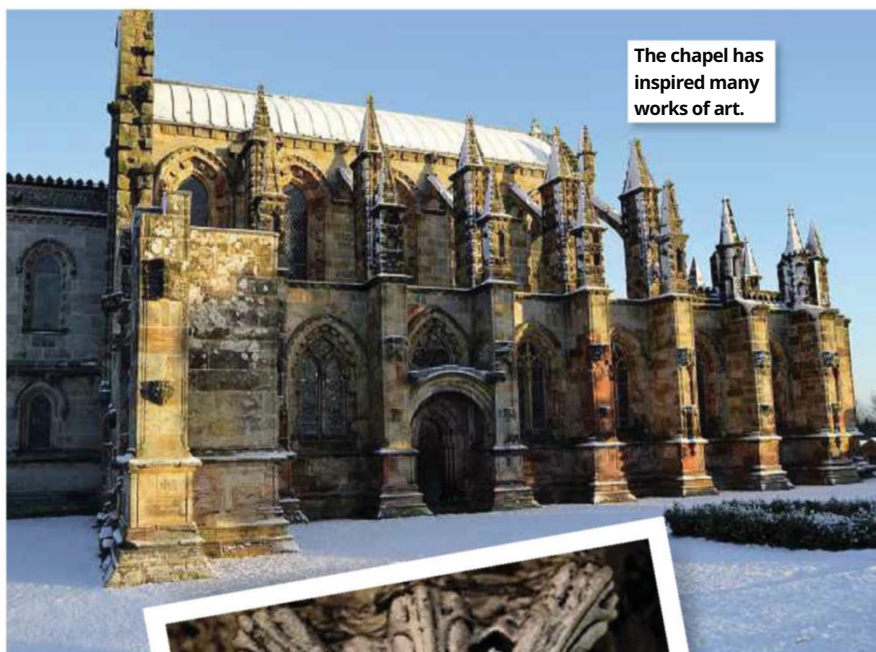
Make sure you catch every beautiful stitching project in *Cross Stitch Collection* by signing up for a subscription! Not only will you get 13 issues a year delivered direct to your door, but you'll also save 25% with our subscription offers – turn to page 40 to find out how you could save up to £32!





# January Collection

Be inspired by new kits, great ideas and more from the vibrant stitching world



## Stitching history

Located in the Scottish borders is a small company achieving great things in traditional cross stitch – and it's just been asked to design a series of kits for the 15th-century Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian.

"Cobweb Designs specialises in needlework kits for heritage companies," says the design company's founder Sally Scott Aiton. "Scotland's rich history has always been a special source for our work and we were delighted to be invited to design for Rosslyn Chapel."

Author Dan Brown is a fan of the chapel, setting parts of his novel *The Da Vinci Code* there. The chapel's elaborate stonework ensures it's popular with artists too.

"The chapel has been inspiration for a lot of artworks and lends itself well to crafts such as cross stitch," says Ian Gardiner from the chapel.

"Sally's reputation for this kind of design is very high, and the quality speaks for itself."

The popular range now includes two sampler kits, plus pincushions of the chapel's famous Rose Window and the Green Man.

Challenges include the Chapel's overseas visitors. "We have instructions in several languages, which is a design consideration," Sally explains. "Dark green and light green are easy enough, but we had words like 'jade' and 'olive'. There are nine shades of green in all!"

The Rosslyn Chapel commissions have been a treat for Sally.

"Working in such a beautiful location is a privilege," she says. "I love my job!"

To find out more, visit [www.cobweb-needlework.com](http://www.cobweb-needlework.com) and [www.RosslynChapel.com](http://www.RosslynChapel.com).



Sally designed pincushions and samplers.





# Meet... Online stitching stars!

Christie blogs about the pleasures and challenges of stitching over at **Christie's Cross Stitch Creations**.

## Tell us about yourself

I work full time and cross stitch mainly in the evenings. My husband and I have been married for 15 years and have one adult son, plus two dogs: a boxer and a dachshund. I have flower gardens I tend to.

## When did you fall in love with cross stitch?

I taught myself to cross stitch with a couple of small projects in 2006, after seeing my oldest brother's cross stitch pieces. The steady rhythm of the needle and floss going through the fabric gives me a sense of peace in my otherwise busy life.

## What sort of things do you most like to stitch?

I mainly like to stitch animals such as tigers, leopards and wolves. I've stitched horses and have several carousel horse charts I plan to stitch.

## What's been your biggest stitching challenge?

Tribal Ponies was the first of my larger projects. I was still in the learning stages of tent stitch and quarter stitch. I wanted to give it to my father but he had passed before I could. He loved horses, and I know he would be proud of me for finishing the piece in his memory.

## Do you have a piece that you're most proud of?

Harvest Light was a present for my mother. When I started stitching it, it reminded me of the



times we've sat and talked about crafts. She still does a little embroidery but her hands are starting to shake. I used DMC Light Effects metallic threads for the flame, and my mother says it catches her eye whenever she walks into the room.

## Why did you start your blog?

I started my blog to show my progress to friends and after seeing a lot of people on Facebook with blogs. I've met quite a few talented stitchers online, and have learned a lot by reading their blogs and watching YouTube videos. The online community gives me a chance to talk to and seek advice from other stitchers. Being able to show my pieces to others who share my passion for cross stitch makes me happy.



Christie likes stitching projects with animals.



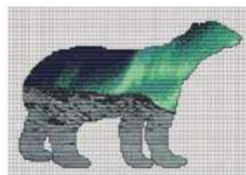
Find Christie at  
[www.christiescrossstitchcreations.blogspot.com](http://www.christiescrossstitchcreations.blogspot.com)



## DOLL FACE

A carefully chosen button can bring something really special to a stitching project, especially when they're as gorgeous as these! Created by Caroline at Zouzou Design in Edinburgh, the doll buttons are made from printed fabric fixed over plastic blank buttons. The exquisite little faces are Caroline's own design, with delicately drawn eyes, noses and lips, rosy cheeks and a few trailing curls. We can picture them attached to stitched greetings cards, bookmarks, cushions, clutch bags and more. Caroline sells a variety of designs, as well as funky kits so you can make the buttons yourself using Caroline's printed fabrics. Buy four doll buttons like these for £11.87 from [www.zouzoudesign.etsy.com](http://www.zouzoudesign.etsy.com).

## 3 of the best... Winter wildlife



### Polar Bear, £3.78

This beautiful arctic wanderer by Clare Bray of Climbing Goat Designs offers a magical glimpse of the Northern Lights over snow. It uses 15 thread shades to capture the wonder of the scene, with the polar bear silhouetted against your chosen fabric. With only full cross stitches and some backstitch, it's a striking yet relatively easy project, perfect for snuggling up with on the sofa. Download it at [www.ClimbingGoatDesigns.co.uk](http://www.ClimbingGoatDesigns.co.uk), where you can also find silhouette designs featuring elephants, turtles and hares.



### Winter Birds, £3.16

This chilly design by Anna at WellStitches shows a bullfinch and a blue tit taking full advantage of a snow-laden tree's crimson berries. Using 13 colours in the picture, the detail in the birds is impressive enough to please any wildlife lover. Stitch it on 14 count aida for speedy results and you'll have it hanging on your wall in no time. You can download the chart as a PDF from Anna's shop at [www.WellAnna.etsy.com](http://www.WellAnna.etsy.com).



### Winter Cat, £3.91

This ice skating kitty is loving the winter chill! We adore the red mittens, bobble hat, scarf, and just a little backstitch for the whiskers and snowflakes, this is a really simple, modern project, ideal for helping newbies fall in love with cross stitch. It will look fab framed in an embroidery hoop. Get the chart from [www.GalaBornPatterns.etsy.com](http://www.GalaBornPatterns.etsy.com).





## Stacks of storage

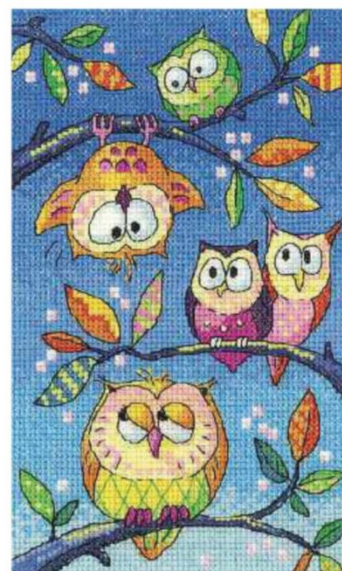
We've always got an eye open for attractive ways to store our crafting stash, and these woven plastic containers look like the ideal solution. Available in assorted sizes and sweetie shades, they're ethically manufactured by Danish company Rice, so they're guilt-free as well as gorgeous. Founded by Charlotte and Philippe Guéniau in 1998, the company is passionate about social responsibility, so you can be confident that the container you choose has been made by a happy, well-looked after employee! We think they look beautiful stacked together, but single ones here and there will add a pop of colour to your décor, as well as keeping threads, fabrics, buttons and other essentials safe. Find the range at [www.miramira.ie](http://www.miramira.ie).

## Brilliantly batty

Heritage Crafts have released a new design by Karen Carter, and we think it's the perfect stitch for long winter evenings! Hanging Around, from

Karen's Birds of a Feather range, features a quintet of owls, one of which seems to have gone a bit batty! Karen suggests: "One of the five owls has misjudged his landing, or perhaps he just likes hanging upside down." We love the abundance of patterns on everything from the leaves to the owls' faces – with so many colours and pretty details you'll have plenty to keep you entertained. The kit contains Zweigart fabric, DMC stranded cottons sorted on to numbered cards, a needle, and clear charts and instructions.

Buy it for £22.50 from [www.hcrafts.com](http://www.hcrafts.com).



## Let it snow

These stylish designs, adapted by Annette Swartzmiller at Whoopicat, just go to show that winter weather is no reason not to look fabulous! Based on vintage fashion illustrations, Annette's charts reveal the most elegant ways of staying cosy this season. "Blue Coat Winter Fashion is by Colette Stall, circa early 1920s, and uses only full stitches," Annette says. "Frimaire is by Martha Romme, who illustrated The French Republican calendar in 1919. It uses full stitches, and some backstitch for details. Pink Snow Girl is signed by Haffe. It's from a 1920s Gotham Silk Hosiery ad, and uses full stitches, plus some backstitch." We think the absorbing designs are the perfect excuse to stay indoors while snow falls outside! Download them for £6.63 each from [www.whoopicat.etsy.com](http://www.whoopicat.etsy.com).





# Competition time

We've got prizes worth over £99 to give away to readers of *Cross Stitch Collection*

Over  
**£99**  
of prizes to  
be won!

## The Lookout

This beautiful bird study design by Hannah Dale for Bothy Threads would look good hung on any living room wall. The magnificent owl, nestling amongst poppies, is worked on 14 count speckled aida, and comes with pre-sorted stranded cotton, needle and instructions. It is available from [www.bothythreads.com](http://www.bothythreads.com) (RRP £27.49). The finished design measures 26x26cm (10¼x10¼in) and is worked in full cross stitch and backstitch.

We have one kit to giveaway.

Enter by post to the address given below, please label your entry The Lookout kit giveaway CSC270.



WORTH  
£27.49

## Bird Table

This fun design by Karen Carter for Heritage Stitchcraft features a bird table surrounded by cute birds, pots of flowers, and a sleeping cat. Bird Table (BFHA1361) is the perfect winter stitch, as it will remind you of sunny days spent in the garden. The kit comes with 27 count evenweave or 14 count aida, DMC stranded cotton, needle and instructions. The finished design measures 12x19cm (4¾x7½in), and is available from [www.hcrafts.com](http://www.hcrafts.com) (RRP £22.50). One lucky reader will soon have a smile on their face as they receive this kit in the post.

Enter by post to the address given below, please label your entry Bird Table giveaway CSC270.



WORTH  
£22.50

## Fabulous Felt

Fabulous Felt, the new book by Corinne Lapierre, contains 30 trendy accessories and fabulous decorations made from felt. The projects include a mug hug, seasonal decorations, pillows, ornaments, wall organisers, brooches and children's toys. If you have always wanted to stitch on felt, but have no idea how to get started, then Fabulous Felt, with its 30 simple projects and easy-to-follow guide with templates, is the book for you. Two lucky readers will soon be receiving a copy of Fabulous Felt published by Search Books (RRP £12.99), which is available now from bookshops.

Enter by post to the address below, please label your entry Fabulous Felt Book giveaway CSC270.



WORTH  
£22.98

## Bag for Life

Make your own 'Bag For Life' with this unique kit from Bobo stitch. Worked directly onto an ethically sourced, high quality jute bag, this counted cross stitch patterns is inspired by the natural world that the carrier bag ban is trying to protect. Each kit contains a jute bag, DMC thread wrapped onto handy bobbins, a large scale chart and full instructions. We have one Fading Flower stitch bag (RRP £24.00) to give a way to a lucky reader. You can find more details and other kits in the range at [www.bobostitch.co.uk](http://www.bobostitch.co.uk).

Enter by post to the address given below, please label your entry Bag for Life giveaway CSC270.



WORTH  
£24

## How To Enter

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send to: Cross Stitch Collection Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open 9th December 2016 – 5th January 2017. For competition terms and conditions go to page 59. Please feel free to enter multiple draws on one postcard.





Meet the designer...

Amanda Butler

Within this winter scene, the glistening snow creates an eerie silence as nature quiets down to keep cosy and warm, snuggled up and hidden from the cold as fresh snow flurries begin to fall. It's the beginning of a bright winter's morning before the world starts to wake up, the hare spots a chance to partake in a tasty breakfast treat before the flurries turn in to a blizzard. The design is of a semi-realistic nature, I created distance with subtle but gentle pinks and lilacs creating depth to what would've been a very flat white on white design. This in turn throws the greens of the holly and mistletoe to the foreground as they pop out at you, pushing the hare back into the landscape.

# Winter hare

Stitch a winter wonderland with our gorgeous wildlife design by **Amanda Butler**

Our stunning design by Amanda Butler catches a curious hare on a trip through a wintry landscape. We think this one will be a pleasure to stitch sitting warm inside, with the frosty world of the hare just outside the window.

Our design uses shading, blending filament and half cross stitch to create perspective, and backstitch and French knots for details, so there's lots to keep you interested as you stitch this delightful project.

We'd love to see your finished projects. See page 33 for full details of how to get in touch. Happy stitching! ➤



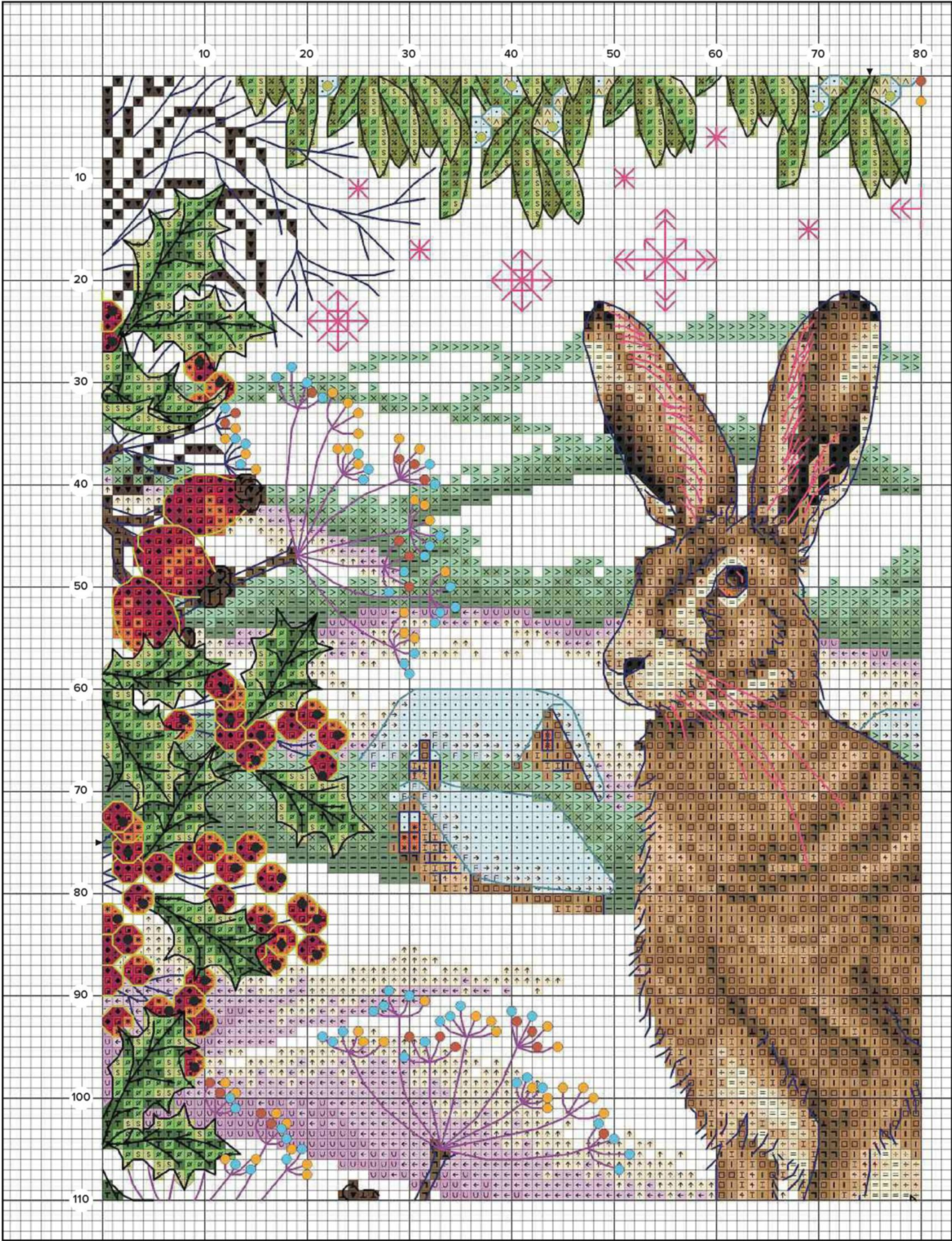




*Use half cross stitch, blending filament and shading to create depth*



Winter hare







Collection  
makes...

## WINTER CARDS

**WINTER CARDS**  
Make simple winter greetings by choosing a few sprigs of holly or a seed head and stitching to fit an aperture card.

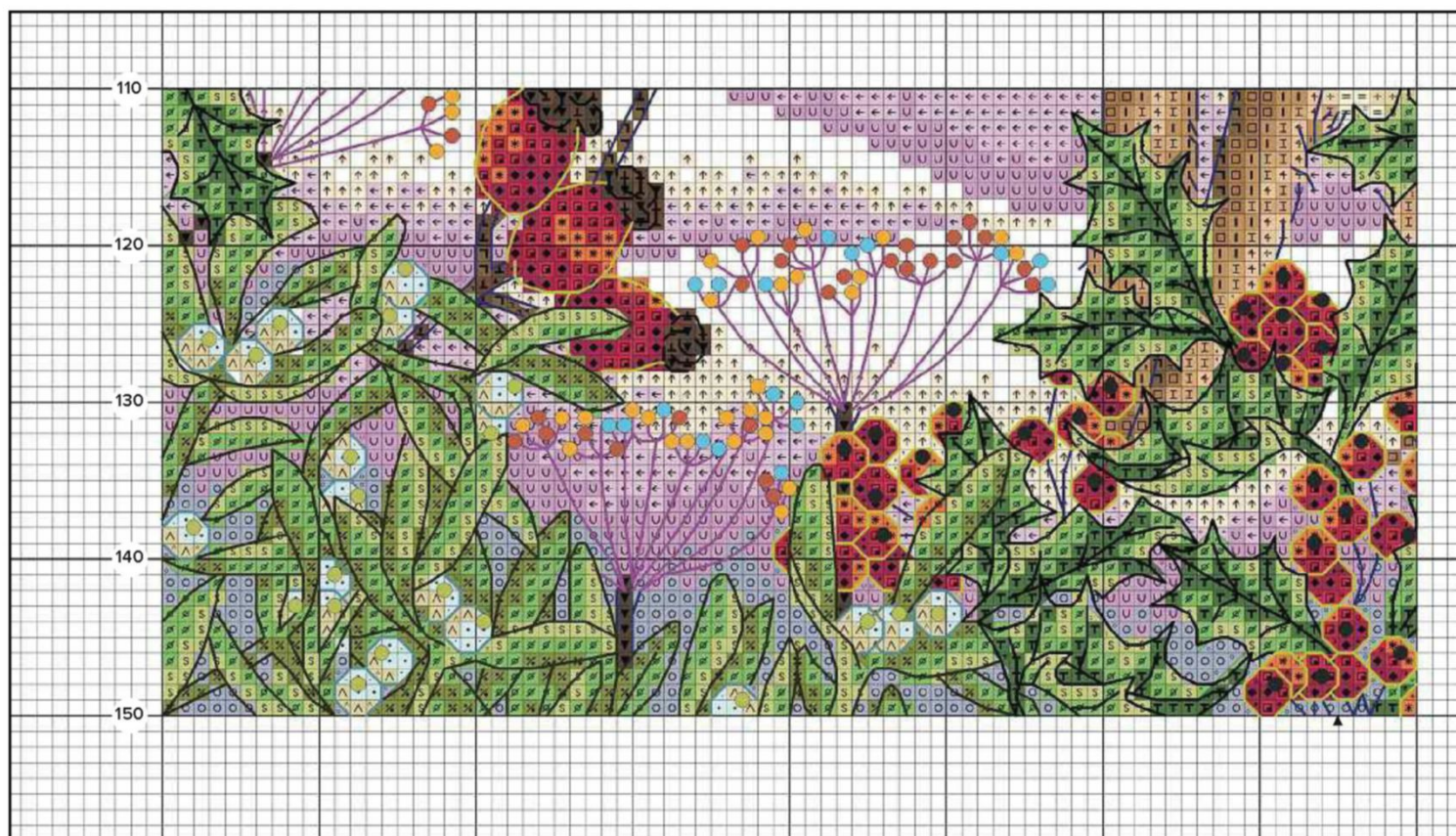
## SNUGGLE UP Add

some winter wilderness to your home by making your finished stitching into a cushion.

## KISS ME QUICK Use

Vilene to make a hanging decoration out of the mistletoe sprigs and hang in a doorway.





## Make it yours

### You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Cashel** opalescent snow,  
ref: 3281/1111, 46x46cm (18x18in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Kreinik Blending Filament** as listed in the key.

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Frame** with a 30x30cm (11¾x11¾in) aperture

**For stockist details see page 58**

### Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, with the snow stitched using a blend of stranded and blending filament. Some areas of the background and hills are stitched in half cross stitch using two strands.

### Adding the detail

**ADD** the backstitch in one strand, apart from the hare's whiskers, snowflakes and ear detail, which is in two strands. The brown stalks on the seed heads are also in two strands and The French knots in one.

## Winter hare

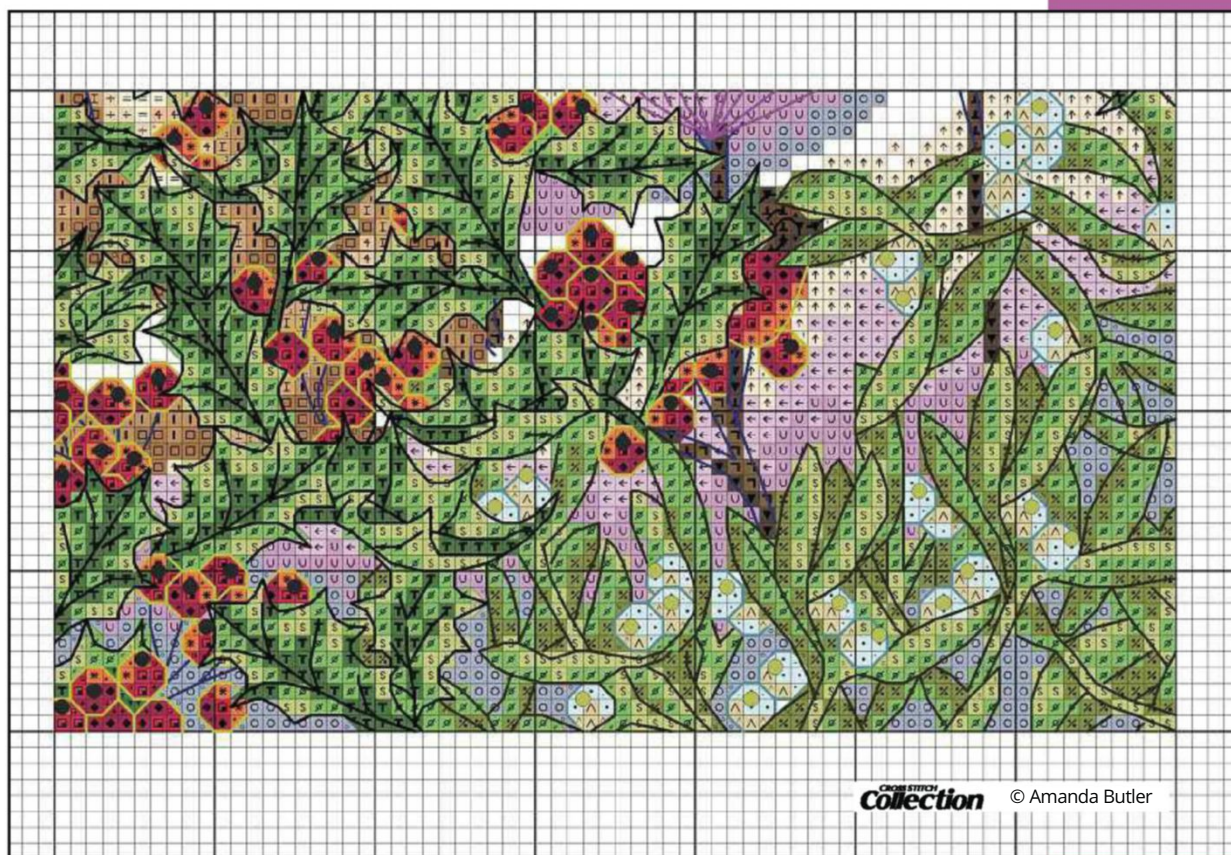
DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

○ ○	159	120	901	lt cornflower blue
U U	210	108	802	med lavender
← ←	211	342	801	lt lavender
◆ ◆	304	1006	509	xmas red
● ●	310	403	black	black
■ ■	349	013	212	dk coral
□ □	435	1046	2010	med brown
I I	436	1045	2011	lt brown
I I	437	362	2012	lt tan
S S	472	253	1414	avacado green
% %	581	280	1609	moss green
ø ø	704	256	1308	bright lime
* *	721	324	308	m spice orange
÷ ÷	739	366	2014	v lt tan
= =	746	275	101	off white
F F	775	1031	1001	lt baby blue
⌞ ⌞	801	359	2007	m brown
▼ ▼	838	1088	1914	dk beige
⌞ ⌞	869	944	2105	dk hazelnut brown
T T	904	258	1413	parrot green
4 4	945	881	2313	tawny



Swap the French knots for beads to add extra texture to your picture.



**Collection** © Amanda Butler

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

## Cross stitch in two strands

	3047	853	2205	yellow beige
	3756	1037	886	lt baby blue
	3770	1009	978	v lt tawny

## Cross stitch blending 1 strand of each

	B5200 + kreinek 032	blending filament
--	---------------------	-------------------

## Half cross stitch in two strands

	320	215	1311	dk green
	368	214	1310	med green
	966	206	1209	baby green

## Backstitch in one strand

	310	403	black	black	holly and berry detail
	597	1064	1110	turquoise	cottage rooves
	838	1088	1914	dk beige	twigs and stems
	938	381	2005	dk coffee	foreground mistletoe
	3857	936	811	dk rosewood	holly berries

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

## Backstitch in two strands

	b5200	001	white	bright white	snowflakes
	838	1088	1914	dk beige	dry twigs

## French knots in one strand

	310	403	black	black	berries
	742	303	114	lt tangerine	seed heads
	838	1088	1914	dk beige	seed heads
	936	846	1507	avacado green	mistletoe
	3853	1003	311	autumn gold	seed heads

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 150h x 150w

Design size: 26.5 x 26.5cm (10½ x 10½in)

Stitch time: 98hrs





Meet the designer...

Shannon Wasilieff

Each of these cute houses is surrounded by small motifs that help to sum up the month. The three summer houses are personally my favourites, with the little extras like the sandcastle and the crab. I think this design would make a great year-long project, you could stitch a house each month. To create the siding effect on the houses, I used three shades of each colour for the walls of the houses. It's a simple technique I like to use to create some depth for house portraits. It was a bit of a challenge to keep the simple look I wanted, while still making the design interesting to stitch. In the end, I added lots of detail, but stuck to 2-3 shades of each colour, rather than the 3-4 I normally aim for.

# Stitch the seasons

Our sweet calendar houses designed by **Shannon Wasilieff** are full of character and fun seasonal details



Our cheerful calendar design is a bright and happy project to start the new year. Twelve colourful houses are pictured, one for each month, with sweet motifs tucked in to show the changing seasons. We'd happily live in any of these cute and colourful cottages!

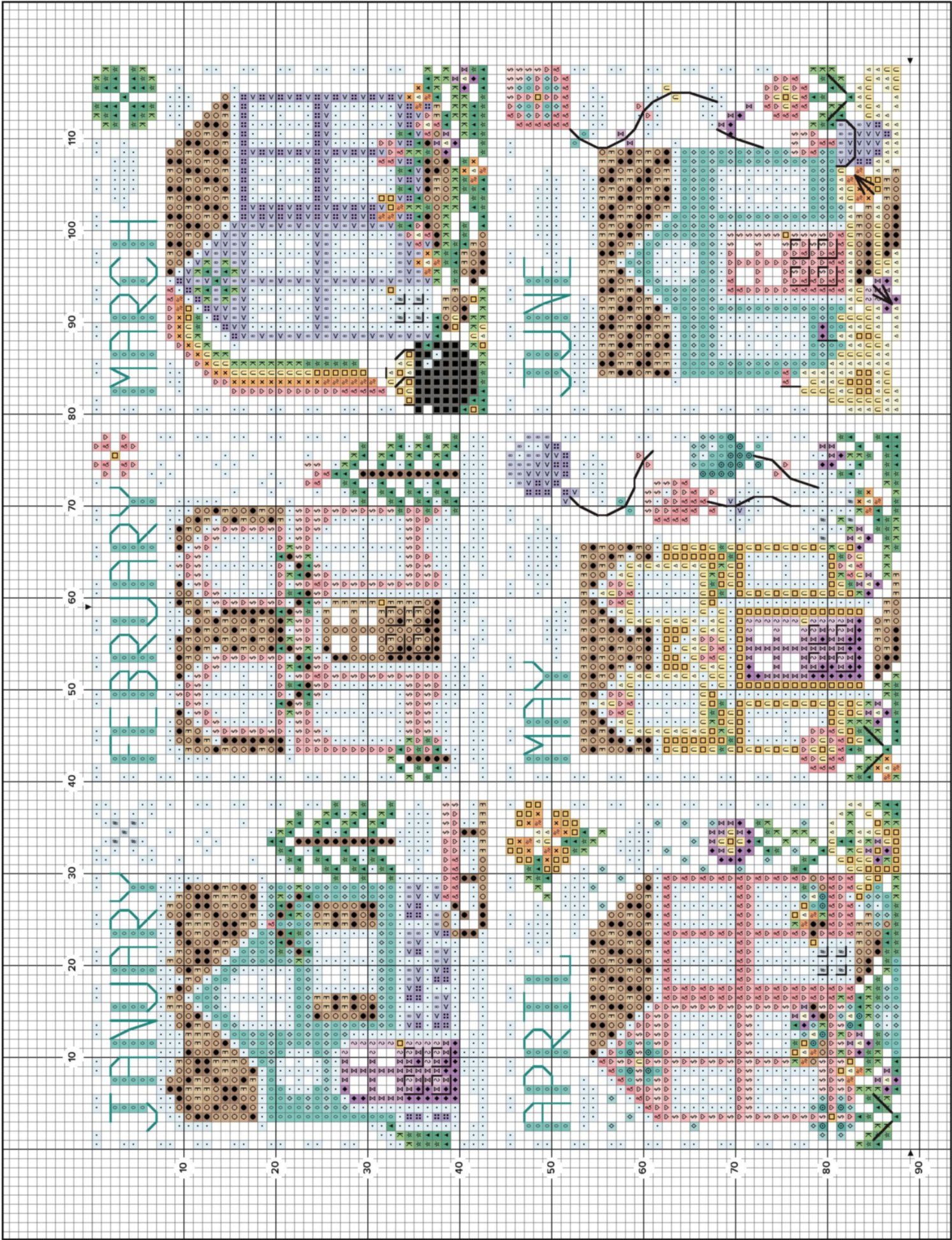
Each month is a real treat to stitch in its own right as Shannon has packed so much detail into each tiny picture. You could stitch one as a birthday greeting by picking the right month and popping it in an aperture card. ➤



*“These fun houses  
would make a great  
year-long project”*















“Each house has some fun little details to sum up the month”

## Make it yours

### You will need...

**Zweigart 27count Linda** antique white,  
ref: 1235/101, 51x43cm (20x17in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Frame** with a 38x29cm (15x11½in) aperture

**For stockist details see page 58**

### Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one strand for the backstitch and one for the French knots.

## Stitch the seasons

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

◆ ◆	208	111	804	v dk lavender
⌗ ⌗	210	108	802	med lavender
⌘ ⌘	211	342	801	lt lavender
■ ■	340	118	902	blue violet
< <	341	117	901	lt blue violet
● ●	434	310	2009	lt brown
○ ○	436	1045	2011	lt brown
▲ ▲	700	228	1304	bright xmas green
☆ ☆	702	239	1306	kelly green
✕ ✕	704	256	1308	bright lime
☐ ☐	738	361	2013	v lt tan
% %	740	316	202	tangerine
✕ ✕	741	304	201	med tangerine
□ □	742	303	114	lt tangerine
∩ ∩	744	301	112	pale yellow
△ △	746	275	101	off white
# #	775	1031	1001	lt baby blue
\$ \$	818	073	502	baby pink
& &	899	052	505	med rose
○ ○	959	186	1113	seagreen
◇ ◇	964	1092	1112	lt seagreen
♡ ♡	3326	036	504	dk dusty pink
■ ■	3371	382	2004	dark brown
8 8	3747	120	907	lt blue violet
◎ ◎	3812	188	2706	dk seagreen
• •	B5200	001	white	bright white (3)

### Backstitch in one strand

—	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	outlines, details			
—	3812	188	2706	dk seagreen
	words			

### French knots in one strand

● ●	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	crab eyes			

Stitched using DMC threads on 27 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 178hx118w

Design size: 33x22cm (13x8¾in)

Stitch time: 75hrs





# Initial gift bags

Our gift bags designed by **Zweigart** would make perfect table gifts for an intimate Christmas dinner





# Make a bag

## You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count linen band** natural, ref: 7347/53, 8.5cmx33cm (3½x13in) for each bag  
**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key  
**Size 26** tapestry needle  
**Red ribbon** 3mm x 28cm (11in)  
**For stockist details see page 58**

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the linen band in half, bringing the raw edges together to make a bag shape. Stitch your chosen letter just below the centre on one side of the bag. Complete all the cross stitch in two strands before adding the backstitch detail in one strand.

## How to make a bag

- 1** **TURN** the raw edges at either end of your linen band over twice, onto the wrong side. Press and then catch stitch the seams in place.
- 2** **WITH** the stitched design on the outside of the bag, catch stitch down the side seams using matching sewing thread. Insert your gift and tie up the bag with ribbon.

## Tip... Celebrate new life

You could stitch an initial on white linen band using pastel-coloured shades of stranded cotton to make a pretty gift bag for a traditional Christening gift.

**P**op one of these sweet bags in each place setting for a festive get together. Your guests will never believe that they took just quarter of an hour to cross stitch each. We love the idea of filling them with peppermints as a treat for the journey home after a delicious Christmas dinner.

We stitched our gift bags using linen band with woven edges, which means making them up is a snap as the edges are already finished. Of course, you could also use the alphabet to make anything from scented wardrobe hangers to gift tags – the only limit is your imagination!

## Initial gift bags

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

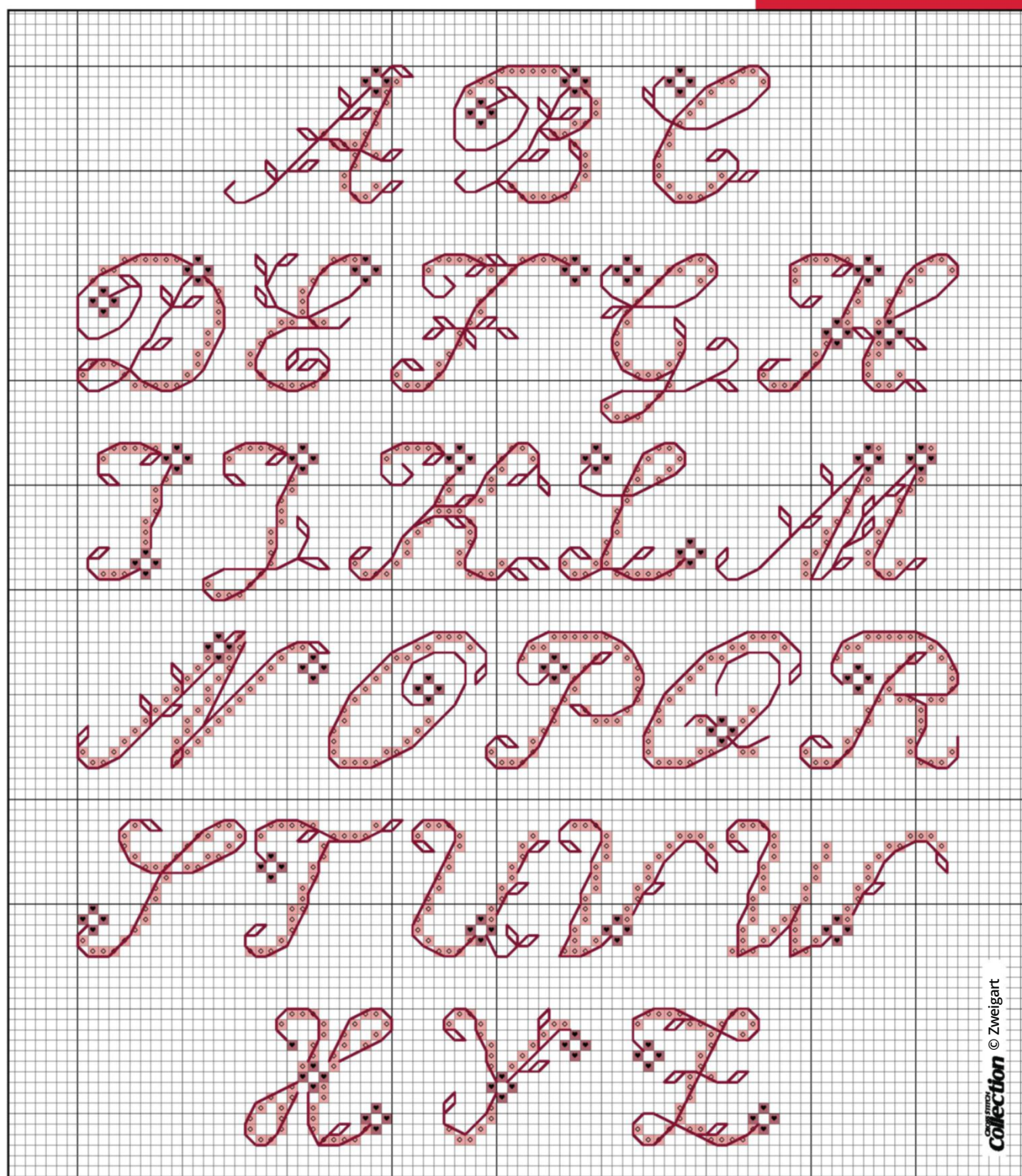
◇ ◇	760	1022	405	salmon
♥ ♥	816	1005	512	garnet

### Backstitch in one strand

—	816	1005	512	garnet
letter outlines				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count linen band.  
 Stitch count: 13hx16w each letter approx  
 Design size: 2.5x3cm (1x1¼in) each letter approx  
 Stitch time: ¼ hr each letter approx





Collection  
© Zweigart

## More designs from Zweigart



Our stunning initial project was taken from Zweigart's ideas booklet 242, Alphabet II, which is packed with beautiful charts for fans of monograms or alphabet samplers. There are lots more Zweigart chart books available, filled with project ideas. Find them at Zweigart stockists, priced from £1.99.





# Last-minute makes

You still have time to make beautiful stitched Christmas cards and gifts with our speedy projects designed by **Durene Jones**



**W**e always start our Christmas stitching plans with the best intentions to make beautiful gifts for everyone on our list, but by December we are often a few projects behind. Sound familiar? Our last-minute makes are designed to help you make a gift or card for everyone on your list by Christmas Eve.

We think you'll really enjoy making decorations using cookie cutters – once you start, you might find it hard to stop! ➤





*Finish your Christmas stitching  
early with our speedy projects*



# How to stitch

## You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Cashel** platinum, ref: 3281/770, 16.5x16.5cm (6½x6½in) for each design

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Card** with a 9.5cm (3¾in) diameter circular aperture

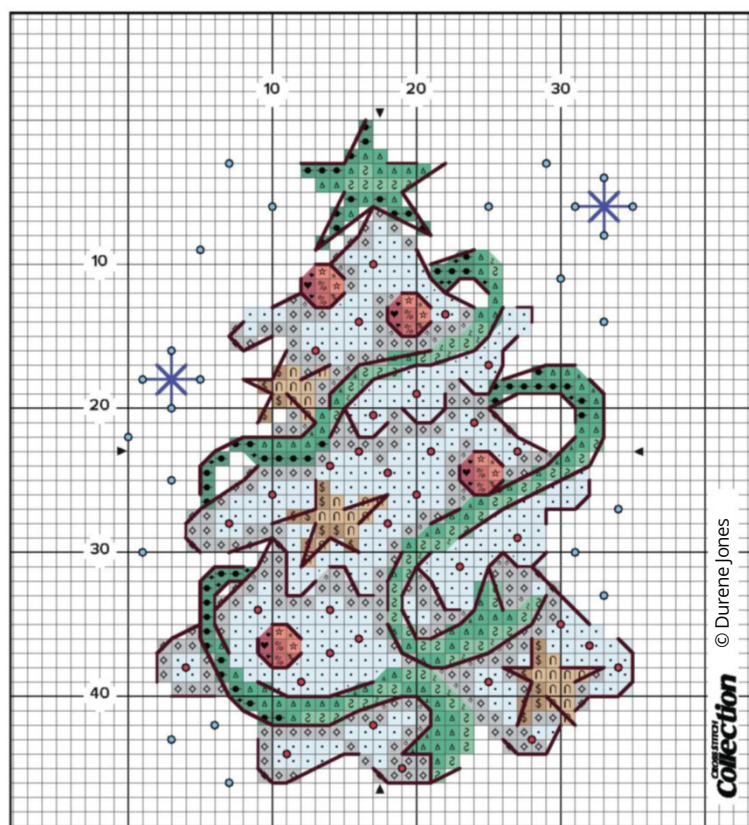
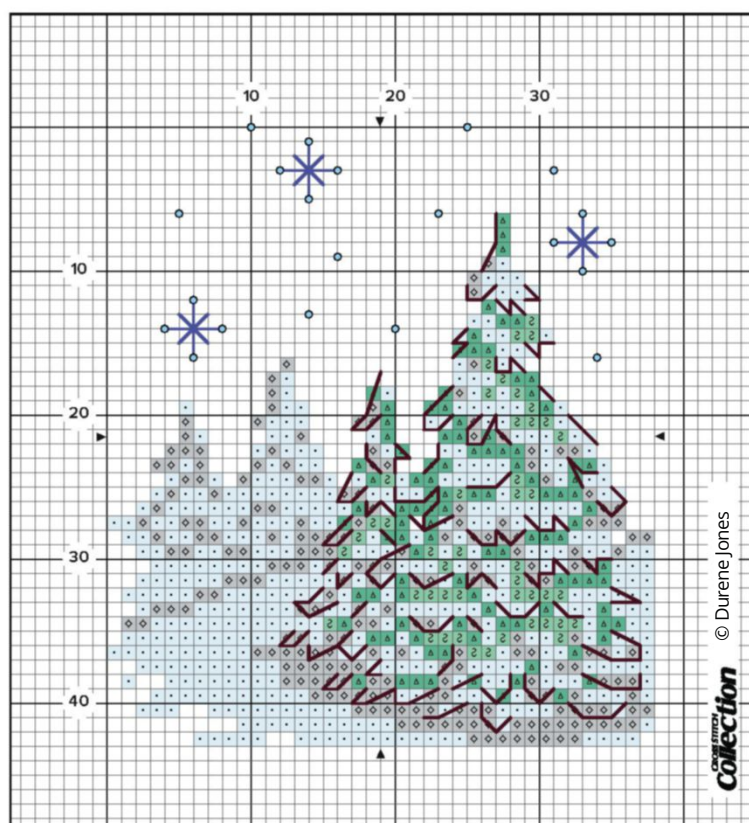
**Wooden embroidery hoop** 10cm (4in) diameter

**Metal cookie cutters** various sizes

**For stockist details see page 58**

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one and two for the backstitch, and one for the French knots.

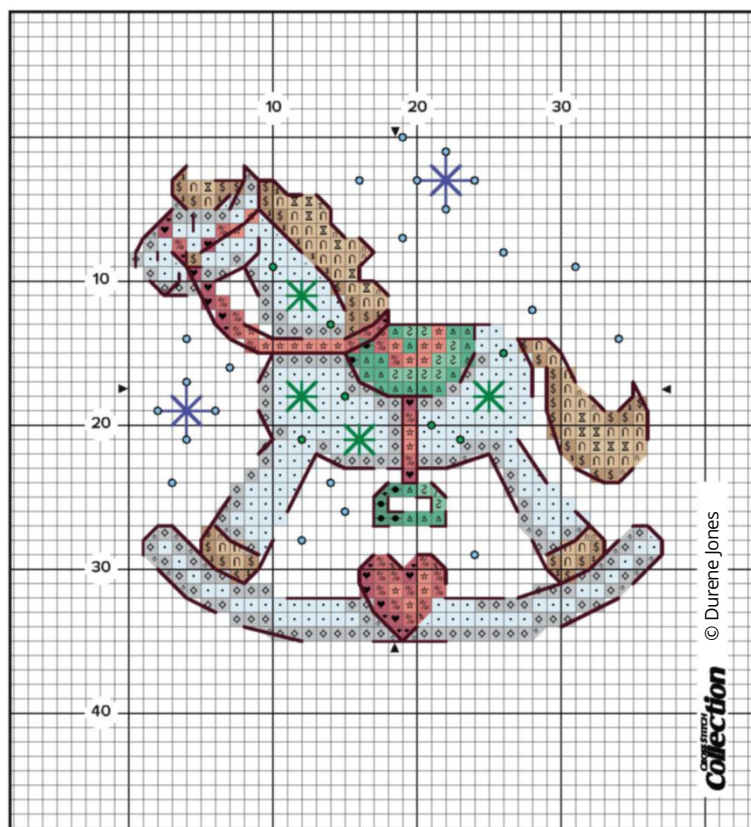


## Tip... Make your own card mount

If you don't have time to buy a card with an aperture, fold a piece of plain card and trim to size. Cut your stitching to size then fray the edges by removing two rows of thread. Glue or sew it to the front of your card.

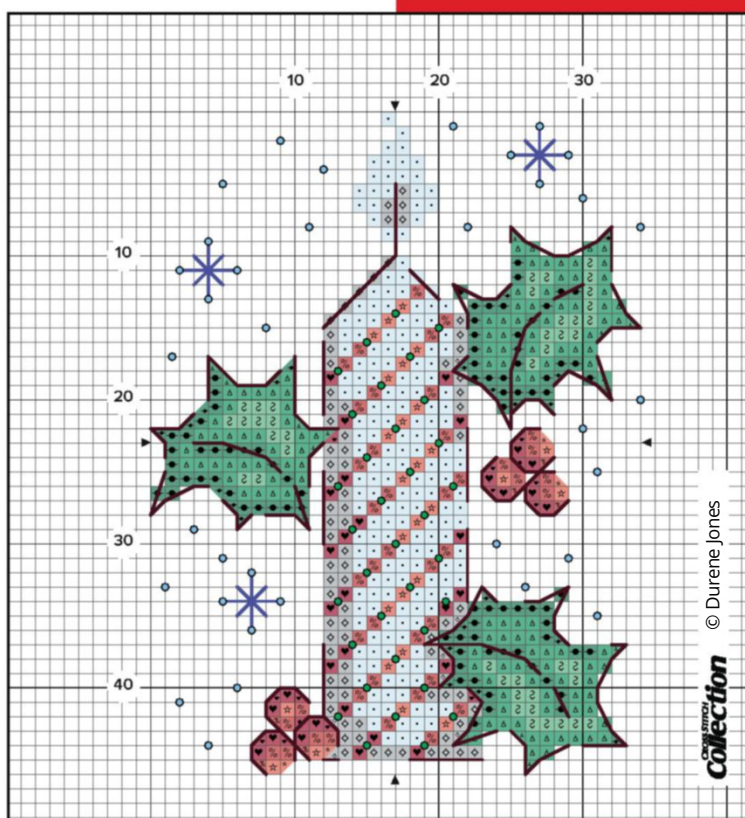


*“Shiny cookie cutter decorations will help your Christmas tree sparkle”*



## Make a cookie cutter decoration

- 1 **PLACE** your cookie cutter on a piece of thick cardboard, and then use a pencil to trace the inside edge of the cutter, marking the cutter shape onto the cardboard. Cut out, and check that your cardboard shape fits snugly into your cutter.
- 2 **COVER** one side of the cardboard shape with double-sided tape. Once the cross stitch is complete, place your stitching right-side up onto the tape. Press down firmly to attach. Turn the shape over and carefully trim away the excess fabric, leaving 2cm (¾in) around the edge of the cardboard. Clip around the curves and into the corners.
- 3 **STICK** double-sided tape around the edge of the cardboard on the reverse side, then press the fabric over and onto the tape. Cut a felt or fabric shape to cover the back of the cardboard, and then attach it with double-sided tape.
- 4 **PUSH** the covered cardboard shape into the cutter, then use a hot glue gun to stick it at the back of the cutter and attach a ribbon hanging loop.







## Last-minute makes

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

♥ ♥	304	1006	509	xmas red
% %	349	013	212	dk coral
☆ ☆	351	010	214	coral
◇ ◇	415	398	1803	pearl grey
\$ \$	435	1046	2010	med brown
∩ ∩	437	362	2012	lt tan
⌘ ⌘	738	361	2013	v lt tan
● ●	838	1088	1914	dk beige
● ●	909	230	1302	emerald green
△ △	911	205	1214	m emerald green
⌒ ⌒	913	204	1212	nile green
• •	b5200	001	white	bright white

### Backstitch in one strand

—	838	1088	1914	dk beige
				outlines
—	913	204	1212	nile green
				decoration
—	b5200	001	white	bright white
				snow flakes

### French knots in one strand

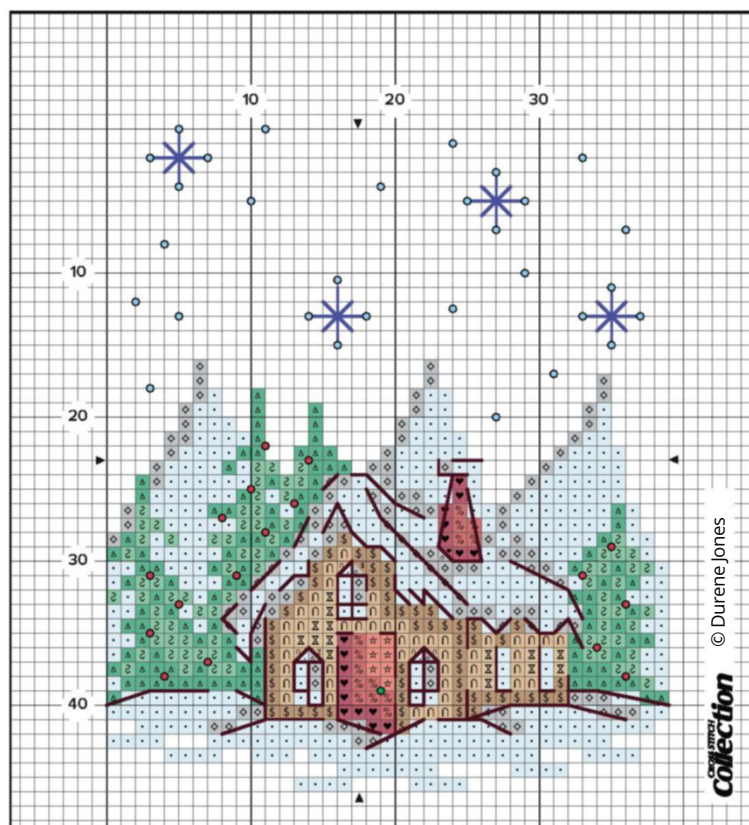
● ●	351	010	214	coral
				berries, decoration
● ●	913	204	1212	nile green
				decoration
○ ○	b5200	001	white	bright white
				snow, snowflakes

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 47hx37w max

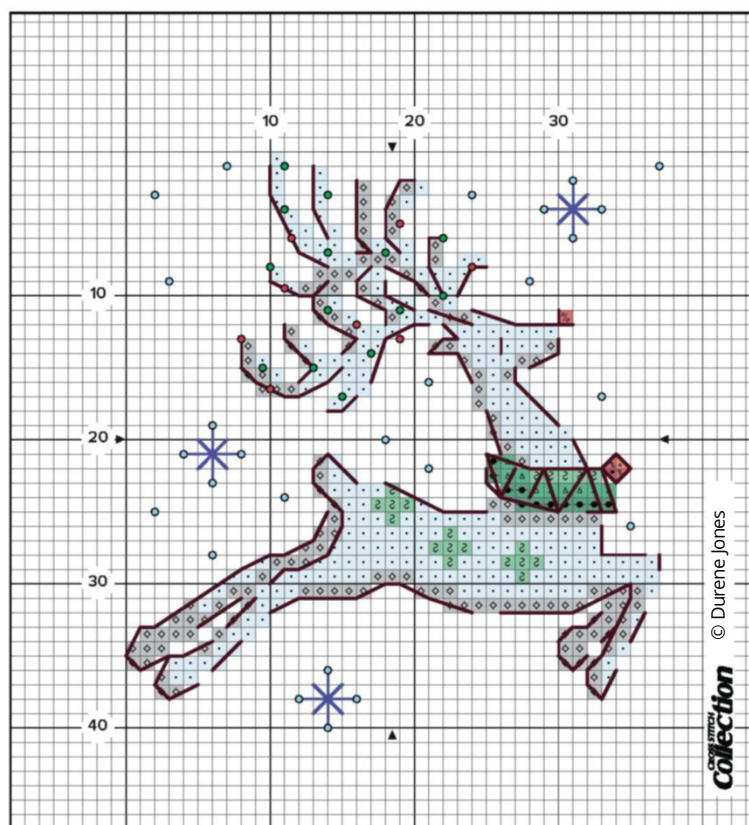
Design size: 7.5x6.5cm (3x2½in) max

Stitch time: 3hrs for each design



© Durene Jones

Collection



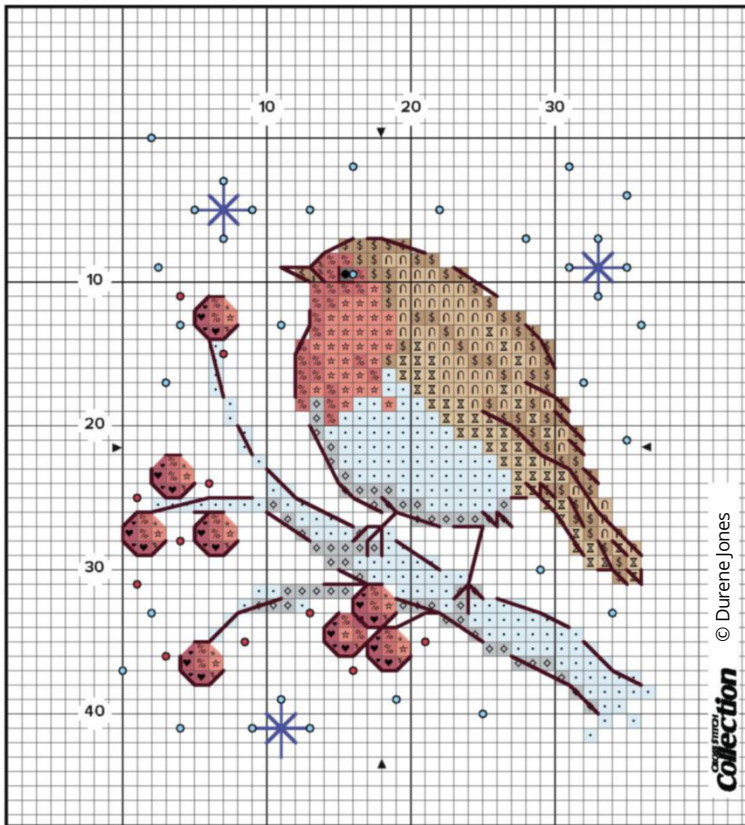
© Durene Jones

Collection

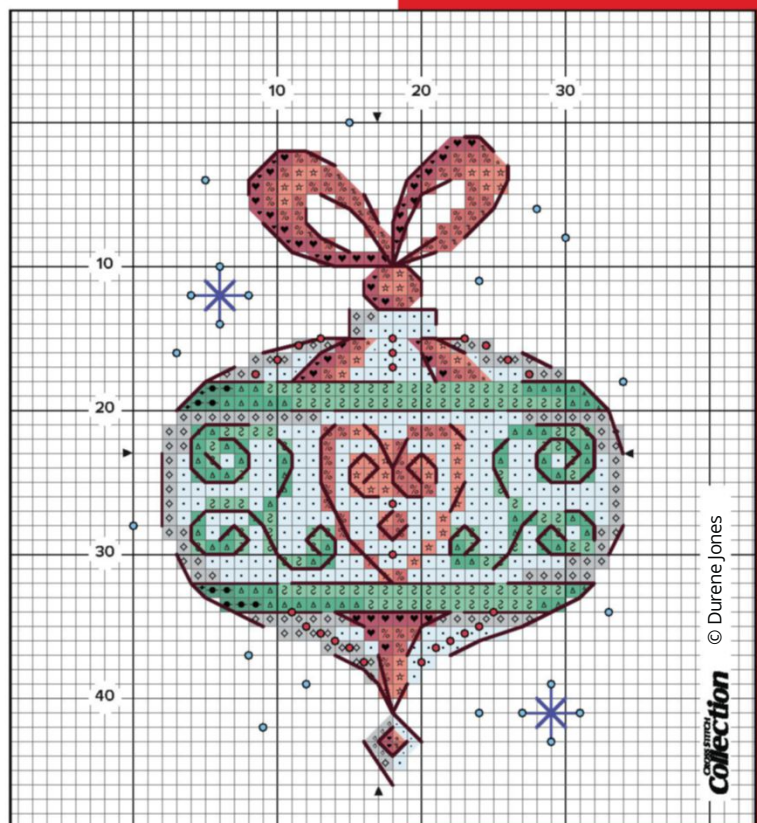
## Tip... DIY Christmas jumper

If you're invited to a Christmas jumper party, you could jazz up an old jumper instead of buying something new. Stitch one of our designs onto evenweave, fold over the edges and attach it to your jumper with neat stitches.





Our sweet robin design is pretty enough to leave up through to spring.





# Cocker spaniel

Our cheeky spaniel designed  
by **Jayne Netley Mayhew** will be a joy  
to stitch for any dog lover

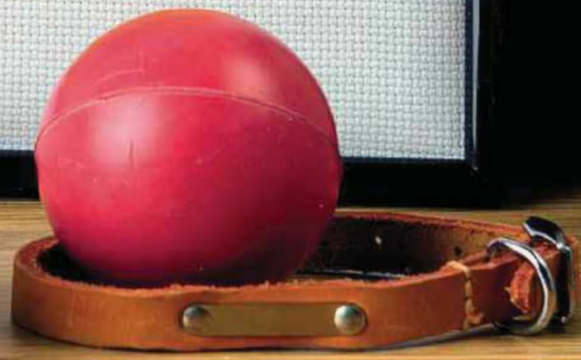


Our lovely black and white cocker spaniel is looking up as if he's just been caught chewing the tassel he's got clutched in his paws. But how could you stay angry at that face?

This is a lovely project with a fresh colour palette, stitched on aida with no fractionals. It's perfect for a beginner looking for something a little bit more advanced – or anyone who goes a bit mad at the sight of a spaniel! ➤

*Our cocker  
project is perfect  
for anyone who  
loves a spaniel*







## Cocker spaniel

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

■ ■	310	403	black	black
◐ ◐	317	400	1714	pewter grey
△ △	318	399	1802	lt steel grey
◆ ◆	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
& &	414	235	1801	dk grey
· ·	415	398	1803	pearl grey
# #	453	231	1806	lt shell grey
■ ■	469	267	1503	avacado green
× ×	470	267	1502	m avacado
∧ ∧	471	265	1501	lt avacado
○ ○	472	253	1414	v lt avacado
∩ ∩	642	392	1906	dk beige grey
~ ~	644	830	1907	beige grey
♥ ♥	742	303	114	lt tangerine
% %	743	030	2294	yellow
8 8	744	301	112	pale yellow
☆ ☆	745	300	111	v pale yellow
4 4	746	275	101	off white
× ×	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey
▲ ▲	801	359	2007	m brown
o o	822	390	2001	dk ecru
> >	900	333	208	burnt orange
⋈ ⋈	918	341	314	dk copper red
♥ ♥	920	1004	312	v dk russet
z z	921	884	311	dk russet
● ●	938	381	2005	dk coffee
◐ ◐	3799	236	1713	dk pewter grey
✦ ✦	3860	379	1914	dk cocoa
◎ ◎	3861	378	1912	cocoa
· ·	blanc	001	white	white

### Backstitch in two strands

—	310	403	black	black
			eyes	
—	920	1004	312	v dk russet
			cushion edge	

### French knots in one strand

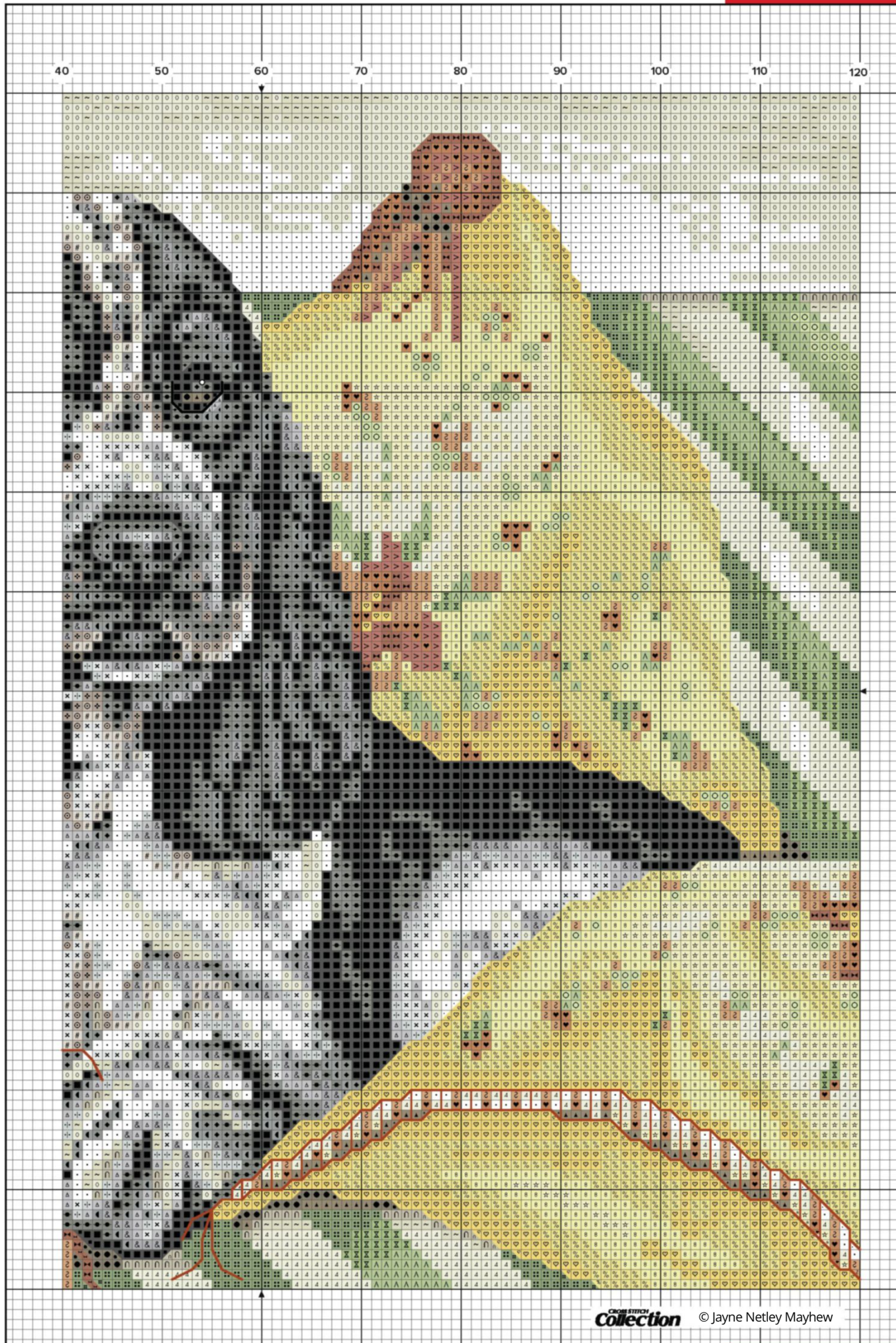
○ ○	blanc	001	white	white
			eyes	

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric.  
 Stitch count: 140hx140w  
 Design size: 22x22cm (8¾x8¾in)  
 Stitch time: 90hrs

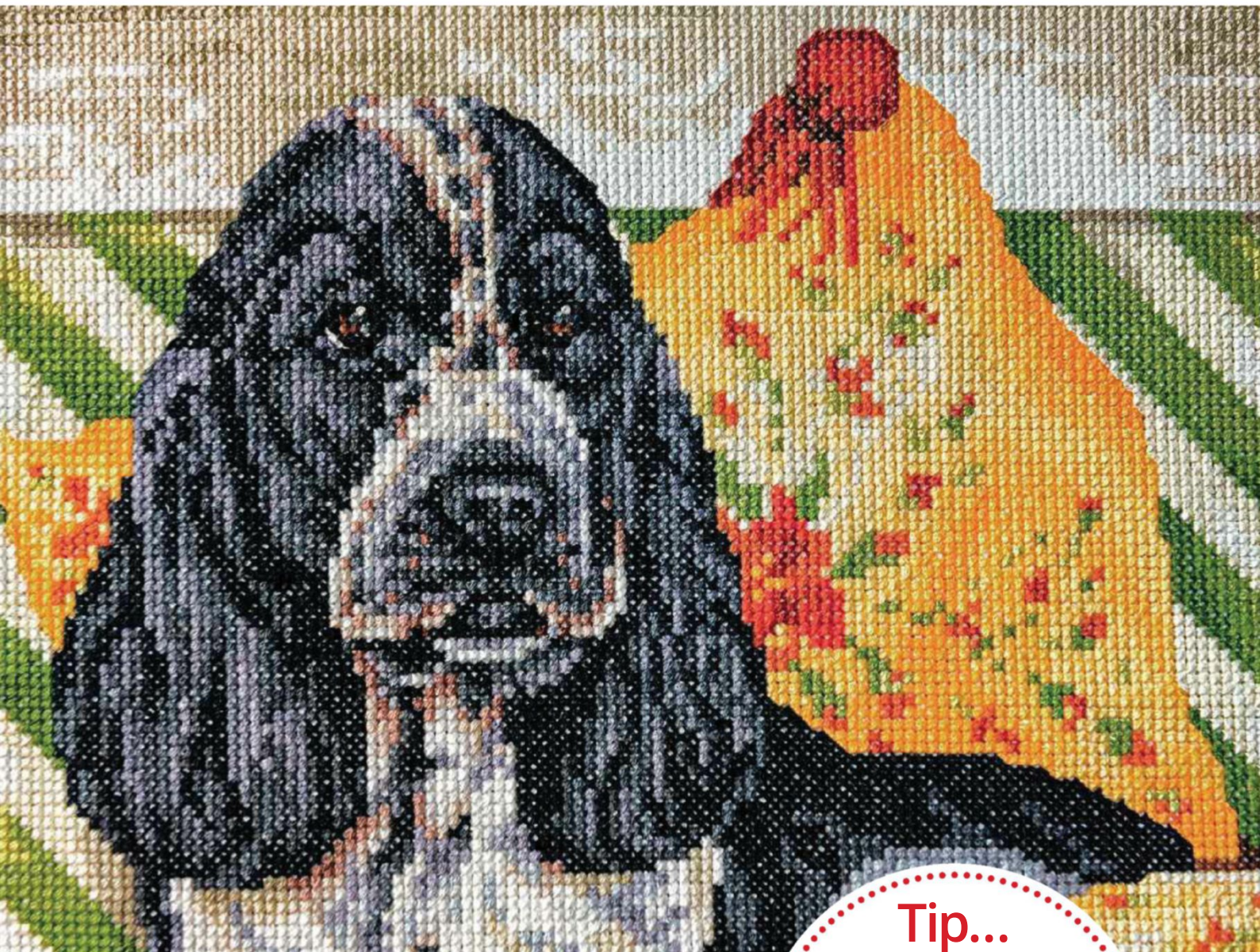




Stitch this as a cushion so you can always have spaniel to cuddle.







Sort your threads to help with the shading that makes up our spaniel's coat.

## Make it yours

### *You will need...*

**Zweigart 14 count aida** white, ref: 3706/0100, 43x43cm (17x17in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 24** tapestry needle

**Frame** with a 31x31cm (12x12in) aperture

**For stockist details see page 58**

### Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, and two for the backstitch.

**Tip...**  
*Find more of Jayne's animals*

Find wildlife designs from blue tits to zebras online at **www.jaynenetley mayhew.com**

*“This lovely project is stitched on aida in a fresh palette with no fractionals”*



# Your letters

Write to Cross Stitch Collection Letters, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.  
Or email us at **CSC@dennis.co.uk** with your stitching stories

## Star letter

The winner of our star letter will receive Terraced Arch, featuring a sunny Mediterranean terrace scene. This lovely kit from Dimensions contains Ivory aida, stranded cotton, needle and instructions, and has a finished size of 41x23cm. Available on-line and from needlecraft shops, with a RRP of £30.32. Well done Zena Massey, who will get her prize very soon!



Find it in  
issue 254.

## Goose cushion

I have just finished this pretty Gaggle of Geese cushion, which featured in issue 254 of your excellent magazine. I thoroughly enjoyed stitching it, then choosing the grey fabrics to match and making up the cushion cover. I made it for my daughter's birthday. She keeps geese and loves the colour grey, so it was perfect for her.

**Zena Massey, Hampshire**

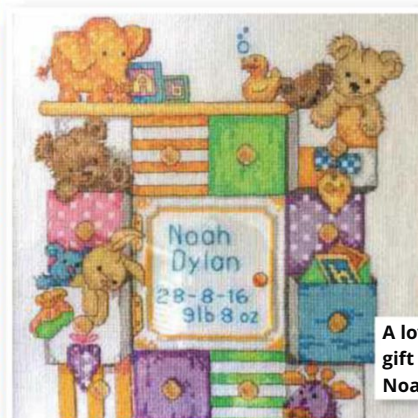
**Collection says:** Thank you so much for sharing your fab cushion, Zena. We love the fabrics and buttons you chose to complement the geese.

## Stitching for Noah

I have recently completed this sampler for my latest grandchild, who was born in August. When his sister was born two years ago, I embroidered a Noah's Ark sampler. Had I known my grandson would be called Noah I think I would have done them the other way around! They have taken some time to complete but have given me great joy while working on them.

**Betsan Cocker, Cheshire**

**Collection says:** Our offspring are always finding ways to surprise us, aren't they? Noah's sampler is gorgeous.



A lovely  
gift for  
Noah.

## Photo finish

When I first started stitching I knew that I would love to stitch a picture of my grandparents. My grandfather (on the left of the photo) always says that the best gift we could give them is time and so that is exactly what I did. It took me a few months to complete and after all these years I was so happy to have finally stitched this photo of them. I was really happy with how clear the image ended up being and the cross stitch now hangs happily on their living room wall.

**Helena McIndoe, Gloucestershire**

**Collection says:** What a special project, Helena. If anyone else would like to have a photo charted, you can find more details at [www.dmccreative.co.uk/Stitch-A-Photo](http://www.dmccreative.co.uk/Stitch-A-Photo).



## Send us your news...



We love to get your letters and photos, so put pen to paper and get writing today.

Email us at:

**csc@dennis.co.uk**  
marking your email Letters Page.

or write to:

**Cross Stitch Collection Letters,**  
PO Box 172, Northam,  
EX39 9DY

*Happy stitching!*

*The Collection Team*





# Lucky charms

These cute black kittens designed by Maria Diaz will bring you luck as you stitch – and keep your scissors and pins close to hand

**YOU** can find wooden bobbins, also known as cotton reels, on [www.thecrossstitchguild.com](http://www.thecrossstitchguild.com).

## You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Cashel** cream, ref: 3281/222, 9cm (3½in) x bobbin circumference (bobbin pincushion); 9x9cm (3½x3½in) (scissor keeper)

**Cotton fabric** for bobbin top pincushion 11cm (4½in) diameter circle; for scissor keeper back 9x9cm (3½x3½in)

**Ribbon** to attach the scissors to keeper

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Wooden bobbin** 4cm (1½in) diameter shank

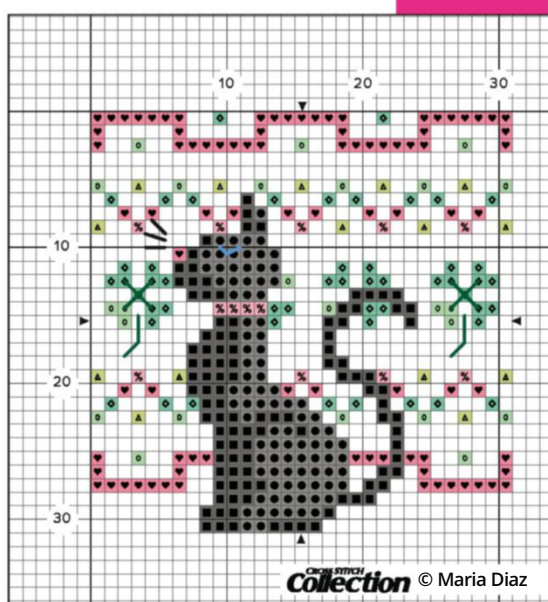
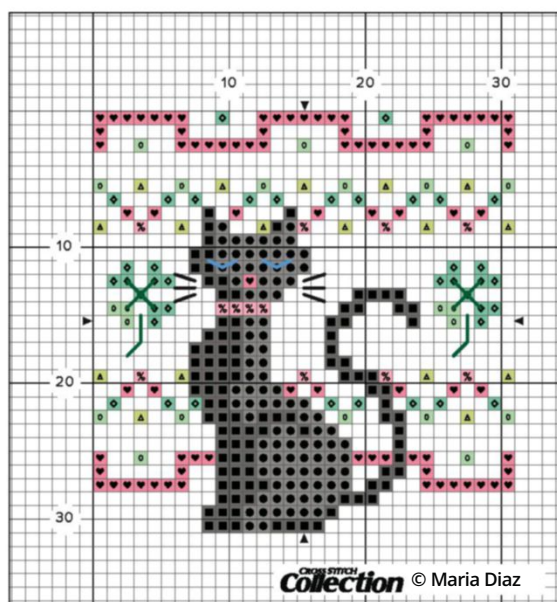
**Toy stuffing**

**Vilene**

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the linen to find the centre, and complete all the cross stitch in two strands of stranded cotton before adding the backstitch detail in one strand of stranded cotton.





## How to make a pincushion from a bobbin

**1** **WRAP** your stitched fabric around the shank of your bobbin, and cut the fabric to fit, adding on 12mm (½in) on all sides for the seam allowance. Iron Vilene onto the back of the stitching to stiffen. Turn over the seam allowance at the top and bottom of the fabric and press into place. Loosely wrap the fabric round the shank, then neaten the overlapping fabric edge by folding the seam allowance onto the wrong side, press. Wrap the stitching around the bobbin once again, and catch stitch the overlap in place.

**2** **MAKE** a row of gathering stitches around the edge of the cotton fabric circle. Pull up the thread to gather the edge, then fill with a ball of toy stuffing. Pull up the thread completely, securing it with a few small stitches. Use fabric glue to attach the stuffed fabric ball to the top of the bobbin – whilst you are waiting for the glue to dry, use rubber bands to hold the pincushion in place.

## How to make a pincushion scissor keeper

**1** **Place** the stitched fabric and the pincushion back right-sides together. Fold the ribbon in half and place at the top of the fabric, with the folded ends inside the fabric layers, and the cut ends facing out.

**2** **Stitch** around the edge, leaving a small gap for turning. Reduce the seam allowance and clip the corners before turning to the right side. Stuff and then sew up the gap with small, neat stitches. Attach your favourite scissors to the ribbon.

## Tip... Mix and match kittens

We've made our designs so you can pick whichever cat you prefer for either pincushion. Just leave the background off to make the scissor keeper pincushion. The pair would make a perfect gift for a new stitcher, or make them to freshen up your sewing basket.

## Lucky charms

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

0 0	164	240	1209	lt forest green
■ ■	310	403	black	black
● ●	844	1041	1810	dk beaver grey
◇ ◇	912	209	1213	lt emerald green
♥ ♥	956	041	611	geranium
% %	957	031	612	pale geranium
△ △	3819	278	2703	lt moss green

### Backstitch in one strand

—	310	403	black	black
			whiskers	
—	3818	211	2704	dk emerald
			flowers	
—	blanc	001	white	white
			eyes	

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 31hx31w bobbin pincushion; 25hx20w scissor keeper pincushion

Design size: 5.5x5.5cm (2¼x2¼in) bobbin pincushion; 4x3cm (1½x1¼in) scissor keeper pincushion

Stitch time: 1hr max both







Mandy lives in the city of Newcastle.

# Stitching memories

A passion for historic fabrics, nature and surface design led **Mandy Pattullo** to develop her own textile collage style, as *Judy Darley* discovers.

**H**ares, deer, foxes and birds dance through the textile art of Mandy Pattullo. Using embroidery, often stitched onto antique fabrics, she recreates glimpses of the natural world as well as more cultivated botanicals, with richly vibrant floral arrangements and more.

"I started stitching in the 1970s, spurred on by seeing a BBC series on patchwork," Mandy remembers. "I quickly moved on from following established block patterns to

designing my own quilts, which I exhibited regularly."

As she became increasingly obsessed with the stitches themselves, Mandy says, "I realised that I had done the wrong degree – in Librarianship – I did it because I liked reading! – so retrained as a surface pattern designer and worked commercially and as a lecturer in an art college before giving it up to pursue my own practice and teach workshops all over Britain."

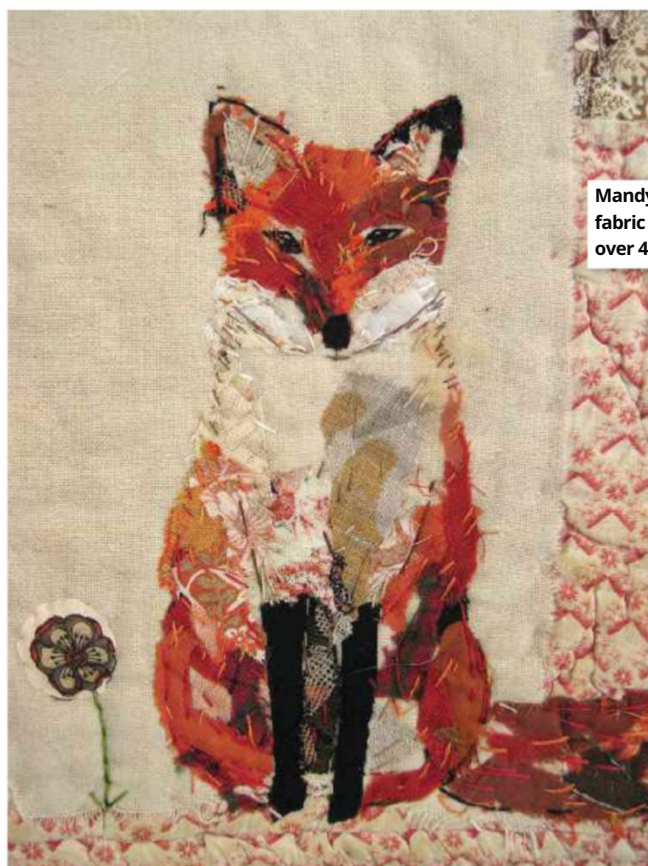
Passing on her techniques to others is a delight. "I teach several times a week and love enabling and inspiring others to keep sewing, starting people off and seeing them fly with their own ideas."

Studying surface pattern and textile design had a huge influence on her own work too.

"I trained to draw and paint designs for wallpapers, furnishing and fashion fabrics, so was always looking to archive decorative arts for inspiration," she says.







Mandy uses fabric collected over 40 years.

All images © Mandy Patullo

Above: Mandy uses tiny scraps of fabric the way a painter uses paint.

Below: Needlepoint collage by Mandy.

"The decorative element has continued in my work, as I use stitch in the same way to add surface decoration to my collages."

The unique look and feel of Mandy's finished pieces is in part thanks to what she calls her "thread and thrift ethos", which means she tries to avoid buying new fabrics. This ensures each work of art begins with a treasure hunt through her extensive collection, seeking out the pieces that will imbue her creation

with the impression she's aiming for. The approach has the positive side effect of adding some personal history to the pieces.

"As a collector of fabrics for 40 years, I now try and only use what I already have, what is gifted to me or what I can utilise by unpicking our family's worn-out clothes," Mandy explains. "It's important to me that the fabrics within my work hold a little bit of a story or have a resonance with people."

This is particularly true of her bird studies, which are appliquéd onto old fragments of quilt. "The vintage quilts in my work ground me in the region where they were produced – the north east of England – and connect me to the lives of the women who made them."

Mandy's textile collages began as a means "to be able to utilise my tiniest scraps of fabrics – almost in



a painterly way to create a portrait. Although I love doing finger turned appliqué, it's also great to be able to just use the pieces with rough edges rather than having to turn them."

Among Mandy's many collections, Enchanted Forest stands out as especially dreamy – to us it prompts thoughts of winter meanders in woodlands where animals emerge – and disappear – among the trees,

"I started this series after seeing a full-sized stag in a country park," says Mandy. "He was so big and

magnificent I just wanted to capture the moment."

Mandy looked at images in books and on the internet,

and then created a template. "I have been stitching deer ever since. I live in the city of Newcastle but have a studio in the Northumberland countryside, which I drive to."

Once she reaches her studio, Mandy likes to have a walk every afternoon, and finds this helps

*"I love enabling and inspiring others to keep sewing"*





## Behind the scenes

Left: Mandy stitched an owl after hearing one when working.

her to feel closer to the animals she features in her work. "Being more aware of nature, like seeing hares in the spring and hearing owls when I work late at the studio, has kept me motivated to add more birds and animals to my repertoire of Enchanted Forest portraits."

She finds looking in books at drawings is the best way to spark ideas for new artworks or collections.

"I love Pinterest, but nothing beats good old book research," she says. "I have a vast number of books and if I get stuck for ideas, I look through them. Sometimes it can be the fabric itself that is a starting point – that it is such a beautiful piece I want to make it the centre of a collage."

Once the ideas are bubbling in her mind, Mandy is ready to begin working. "I sometimes do a rough drawing, but otherwise don't do any preparation other than gathering up materials," she says. "I work very instinctively with what I have."

She carries out most of the planning "and laying out of collages" at her countryside studio during daylight hours "when I can see the colours better. At my studio I have mood boards, lots of samples and lovely baskets of materials which continually inspire me."

When it's time to begin actually stitching the image, things are a little more informal. "I do the stitching in front of the TV in the evenings with a cat on my lap," she says. "I tend to keep home, apart from my current sewing project, textile free."

Mandy always hand stitches, and says that process – combined with appliqué – "is my absolute favourite thing. I know a lot about machine embroidery, mixed media, screen printing, felt making and so on, but I don't want to do everything now as



I feel I have found my own visual identity and want to stick with that."

The pleasure of working with textiles and threads still keeps Mandy enthused.

"I love the feel of fabric and the process of creating a mark with stitch," she says. "I never tire of sewing and it calms me down when I am super busy or worried about things."

A variety of demands take up Mandy's days. "I still work part time, have an allotment, an elderly parent and a grandchild, and so fitting in studio hours is really hard," she says. "However, I love being self employed

and in charge of my own time even if I don't have much of it. I feel so grateful to be able to earn money from doing what I love."

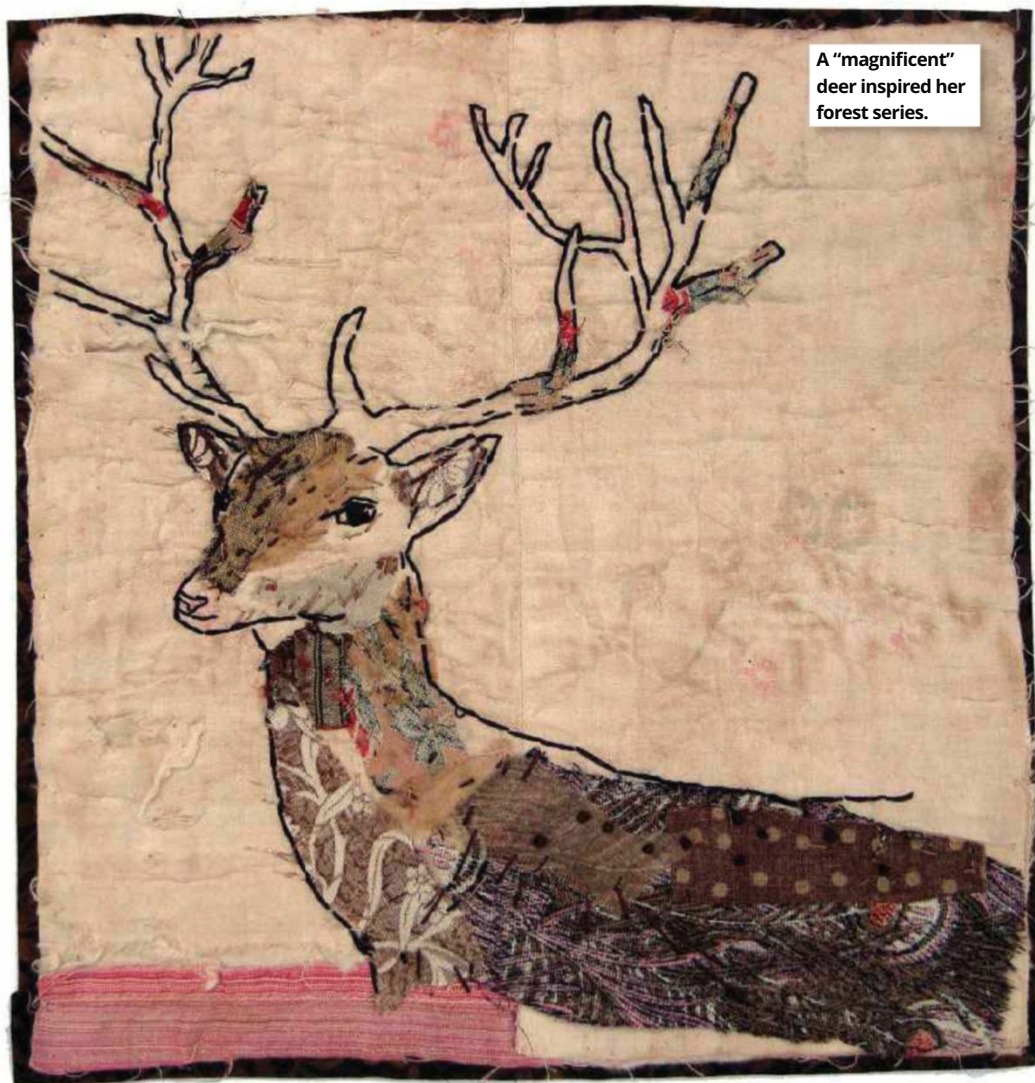
One new and exciting part of this has been the publication of Mandy's beautiful book *Textile Collage*, which came out from Batsford ([www.batsford.com](http://www.batsford.com)) in autumn 2016.

Mandy had been working on the book for a while. "It is a long process... almost two years from the initial approach to the publication date," she says. "I had been approached by publishers before but was really pleased to work with Batsford as the design of their books is so strong."

The book is full of gorgeous imagery and insights into Mandy's

*"I do the stitching in front of the TV... with a cat on my lap"*





A "magnificent" deer inspired her forest series.



She's also inspired by wildlife at her country studio.



*"I love the feel of fabric... I never tire of sewing and it calms me down when I am super busy or worried about things"*

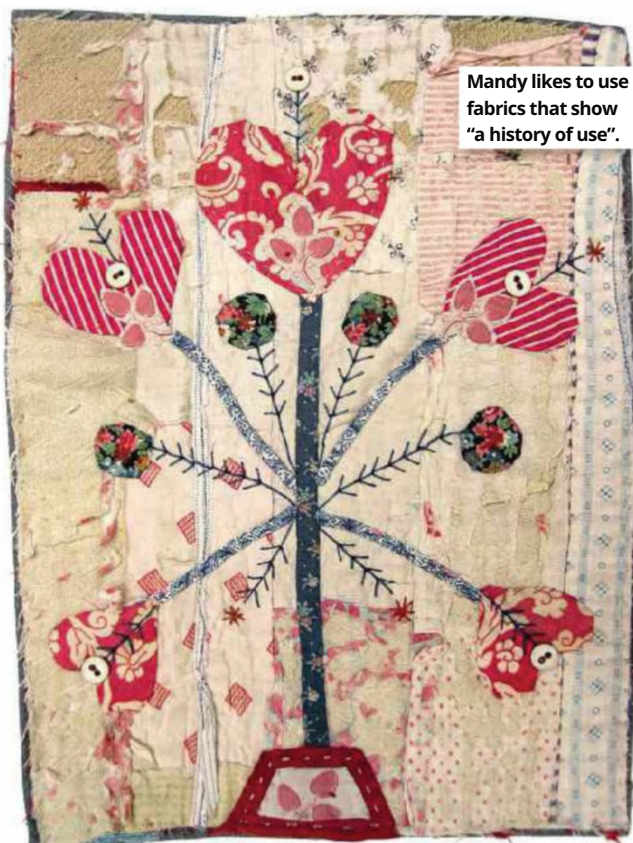
approach to everything from sourcing fabrics to creating works of art filled with history and memories.

Recent projects have included a solo exhibition called Worn, which opened at The Customs House South Shields ([www.customshouse.co.uk/gallery](http://www.customshouse.co.uk/gallery)) on 3 December. "I unpicked and deconstructed Victorian jackets and shirts, which I then reassembled into small collages to draw attention to the inner workings of the garment, stains and tears and the handiwork of the previous seamstress mixed up with my own stitches." The exhibition is on until 22 January 2017.

Mandy has a talent transforming, embellishing and upcycling old quilts and other foraged fabrics into covetable skirts, tops and other garments. She mentions on her website the joy of finding fabrics "which show a history of use, and evidence of a previous female needleworker."

In this sense Mandy is linking the past and present through her embroidery and sewing skills, which we think is a wonderful expression of her craft.

Find more of Mandy's art and discover what she's up to at [www.mandypattullo.co.uk](http://www.mandypattullo.co.uk).



Mandy likes to use fabrics that show "a history of use".



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# Botanical gallery

Make a pretty display of framed flowers  
with our unusual design by **Amanda Gregory**



Our botanical wall design is a fresh take on a floral sampler. We wanted it to look like a gallery wall, full of paintings inspired by flowers and wildlife. The result is this vibrant project that will look lovely in any room of the home.

As each small picture is different, the stitching time on this one will fly by – it's a bit like 14 smaller projects! Stitching each small picture in its entirety before moving onto the next will help you keep your momentum up – or you can finish all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch across the whole picture. ➤

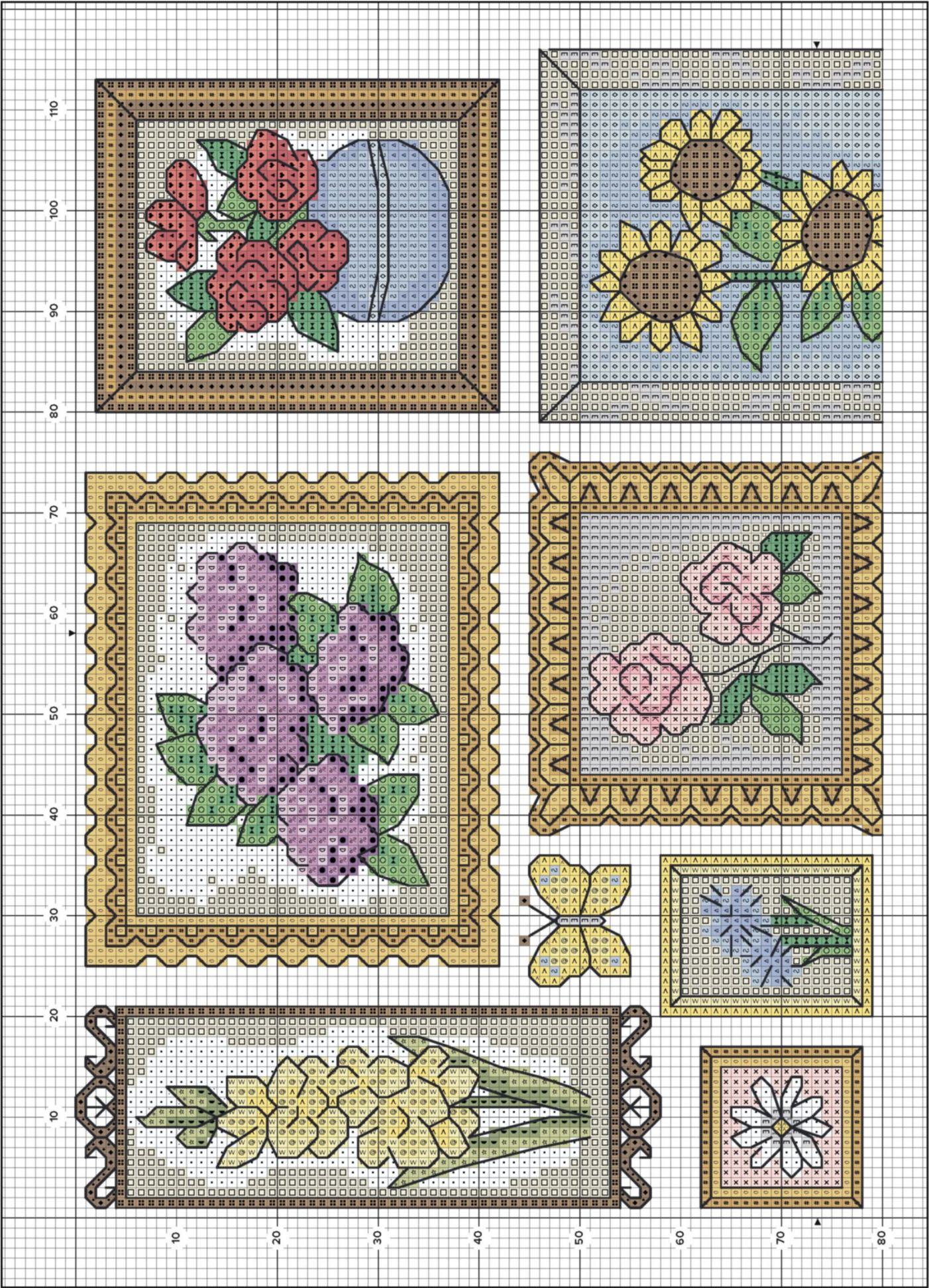
*“This vibrant project will look lovely in any room”*



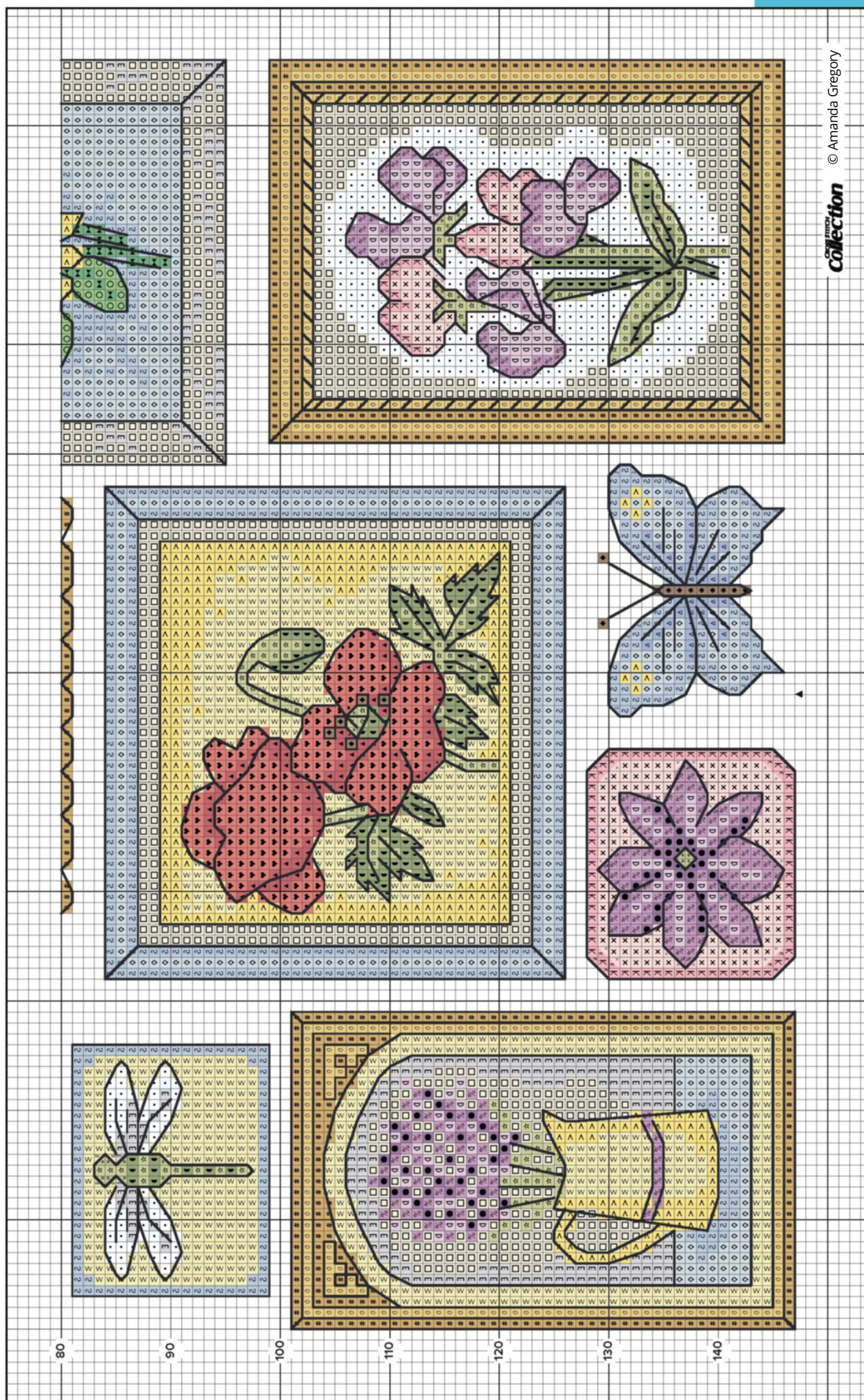
*Stitch our design inspired  
by a botanical gallery wall*











© Amanda Gregory

Collection

## Collection makes...

**TINY GALLERY** If you know a child with a doll's house, why not stitch a tiny framed picture for the wall? Use Vilene and Fray Check to finish your stitching.

**SAVING PLACE** Stitch a beautiful book mark by stacking a few of the narrower designs on top of each other. You can back it with felt for extra luxury.

**FLOWER GREETING** Any of the larger flower pictures would make pretty greetings cards, or you could stitch a simple butterfly card.





Use metallic threads to stitch your frames for an extra glitzy gallery wall.

## How to stitch

### You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Quaker Bantary** antique white, ref: 3993/0101, 46x40.5cm (18x16in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Frame** with a 31x24cm (12x9½in) aperture

For stockist details see page 58

### Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands for the cross stitch, and one for the backstitch.

### Tip... Mix and match

You could try using DMC linen or satin threads on a few pictures to make them look different. Look for a linen or satin thread with an equivalent colour to the stranded cotton version listed in the key.

## Botanical gallery

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

% %	209	109	803	dk lavender
Q Q	211	342	801	lt lavender
♥ ♥	350	011	213	med coral
■ ■	420	375	2104	dk hazelnut brown
◐ ◐	470	267	1502	lt avacado
☆ ☆	472	253	1414	avacado green
▶ ▶	702	239	1306	kelly green
○ ○	704	256	1308	bright lime
□ □	712	926	2101	cream
> >	726	305	109	lt topaz
@ @	727	293	102	v lt topaz
≡ ≡	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey
◇ ◇	775	1031	1001	lt baby blue
ℤ ℤ	800	159	908	pale delft
Δ Δ	809	130	909	delft blue
▲ ▲	817	013	211	dk coral
× ×	818	073	502	baby pink
◆ ◆	869	944	2105	dk hazelnut brown
≤ ≤	3078	292	102	lt golden yellow
✕ ✕	3716	025	606	v lt dusky rose
o o	3821	305	2510	dk yellow
● ●	3837	112	713	v dk lavender
# #	3852	307	2509	dk straw
• •	blanc	001	white	white

### Backstitch in one strand

—	3799	236	1713	dk pewter grey (2)
	outlines, details			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 145hx116w

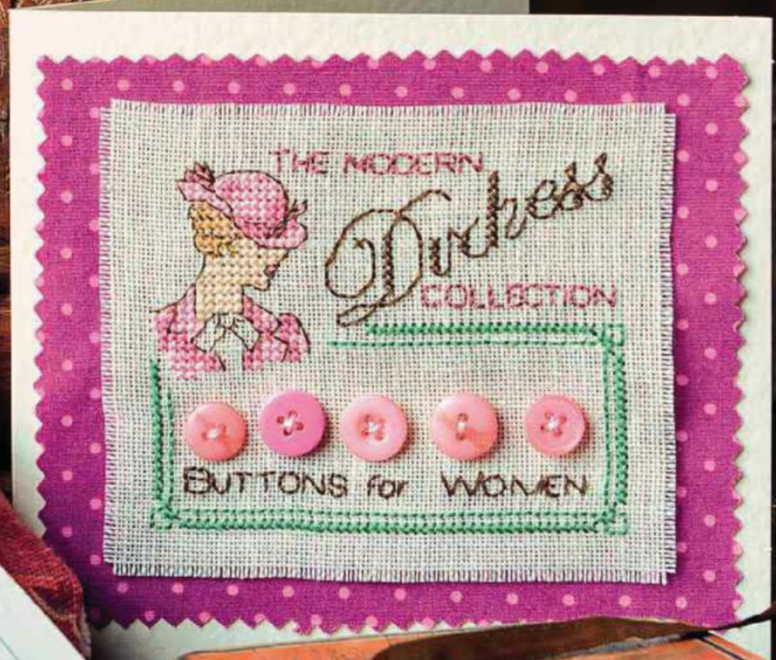
Design size: 26x20cm (10¼x8in)

Stitch time: 65hrs



# Vintage buttons

Our retro designs  
by Maria Diaz make  
unique cards for  
stylish ladies and  
dapper gents







**O**ur his and hers vintage button greetings cards will be adored by fans of vintage fashion and typography.

This project is perfect for using any pretty but mismatched buttons that have made their way into your button tin over the years. You can pick five of one colour or make a mini rainbow!

Use scraps of fabric from your stash to mount your stitching.


## Vintage buttons

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

	320	215	1311	dk green
	437	362	2012	lt tan
	840	1084	1912	m beige brown
	842	1080	1910	v lt beige brown
	948	1011	306	v lt peach
	3031	360	2003	dk mocha
	3688	066	605	med mauve
	3689	049	607	lt mauve
	3726	1018	810	antique mauve
	3864	376	1910	lt sepia

### Backstitch in one strand

	3031	360	2003	dk mocha
	outlines			

# Make it yours

## You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Cashel** cream, ref: 3281/222, 20x15cm (8x6in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**5 buttons** for each design

**Cotton fabric** scraps

**Card blank** cream, 12.5x14.5cm (5x5 3/4in)

**For stockist details see page 58**

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point.

Complete all the cross stitch in two strands before adding the backstitch detail in one strand, and the lettering in two strands.

## How to mount a card

**1 USING** pinking shears cut a rectangle of fabric smaller than the front of your card, then use scissors to cut the stitched evenweave slightly smaller than the fabric. Fray the outer edge.

**2 SEW** five buttons in the space on the stitching. Use double-sided tape to assemble the layers, first the cotton fabric, then the stitching.

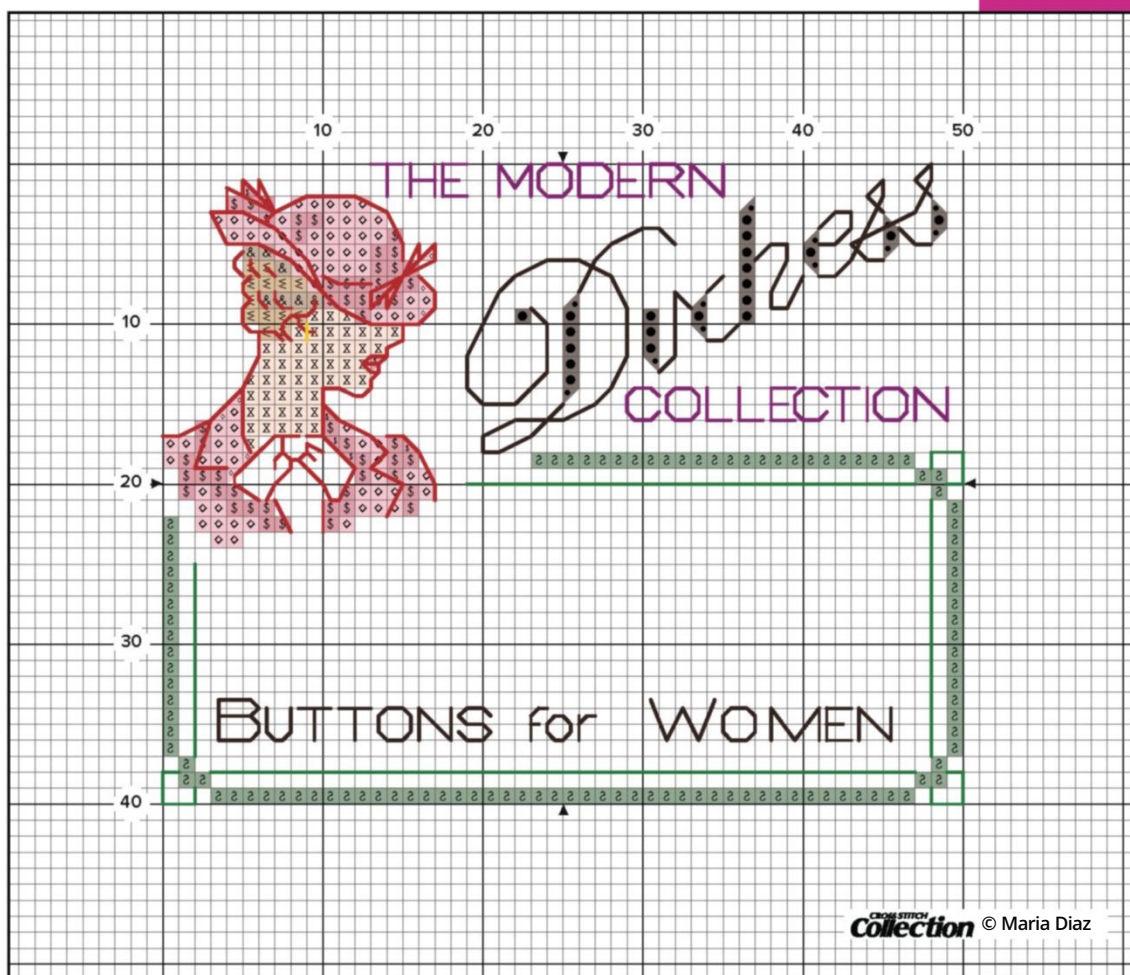
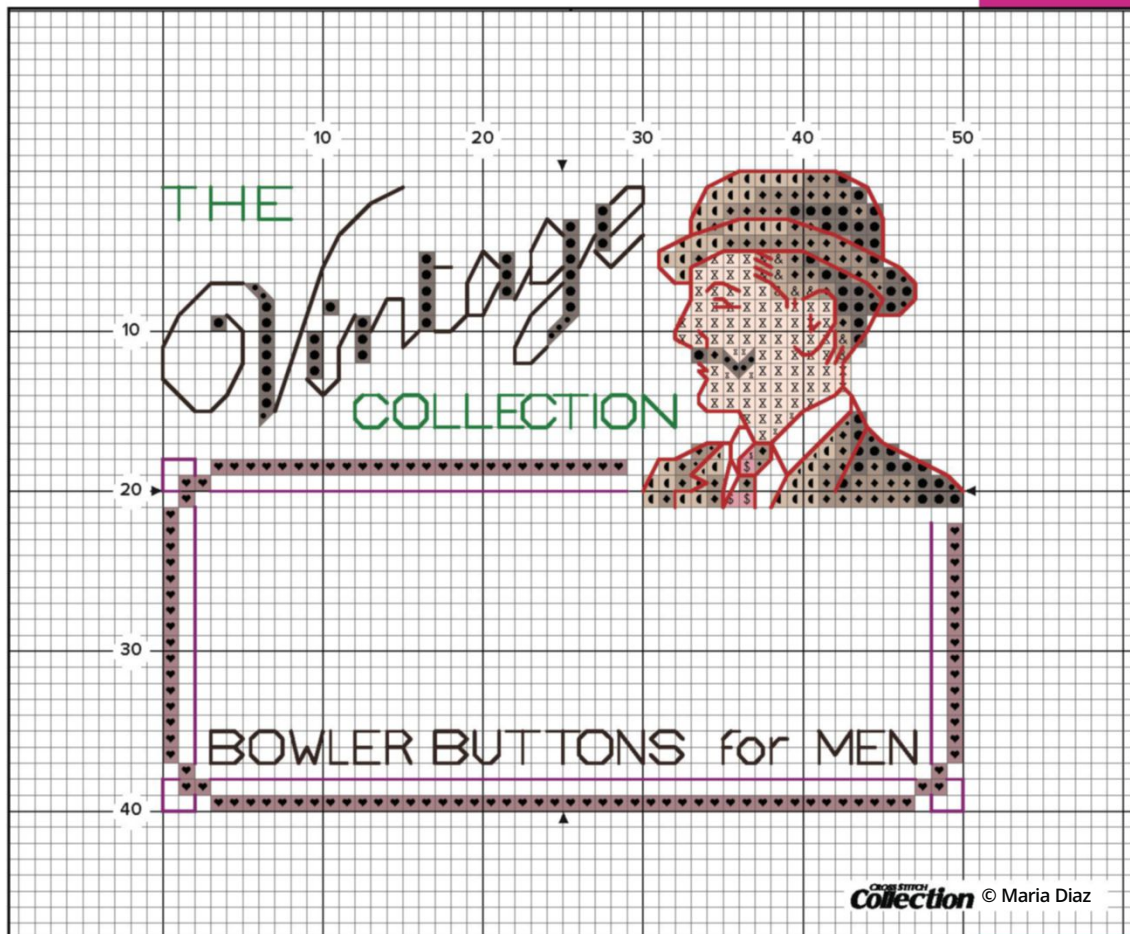
DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Backstitch in two strands

	320	215	1311	dk green
	words, border			
	3031	360	2003	dk mocha
	words			
	3726	1018	810	antique mauve
	words			
	3852	307	2509	dk straw
	earring			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric  
 Stitch count: 40hx50w each design  
 Design size: 7x9cm (2 3/4x3 1/2in) each design  
 Stitch time: 2hrs each design





## Collection makes...

**FRESH FASHION** Keep clothes smelling sweet by stitching either design into a bag with pot pourri inside for a wardrobe freshener.

**SOMETHING BLUE** Stitch the border design in blue all around the edge of a handkerchief for a sweet gift for a bride-to-be.

**TIE RACK** Make the men's design into a padded plaque using batting and cardboard, then attach to the top of a tie box as a gift for a stylish man in your life.





# Pretty posy

.....  
Show your gratitude with our pretty floral thank you  
card designed by **Lesley Teare**  
.....



**O**ur sweet and simple thank you card is just the sort of project we like to stitch for a bit of quick gratification in between larger, more complicated designs. The bright sprig of flowers is sure to bring a smile to the face of anyone receiving this in the post.

## You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Quaker Bantry** white, ref: 3993/100, 18x18cm (7x7in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Card blank** pink, with a 9.5cm (3¾in) circular aperture

**For stockist details see page 58**

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric in half both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. Complete all the cross stitch in two strands before adding the backstitch and French knots in one strand.

## How to mount a card

**1 TRIM** the stitched evenweave to fit inside your card, with the design placed centrally behind the card's aperture.

**2 ATTACH** double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture. Place the stitching on a firm surface right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly. Check which flap will fold over on to the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly in place.



Our posy design would look pretty displayed in an acrylic coaster.

## Pretty posy

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

0 0	151	023	607	v lt dusky rose
◇ ◇	209	109	803	dark lavender
2 2	210	108	802	med lavender
% %	368	214	1310	med green
x x	369	1043	1309	lt green
~ ~	676	891	2208	med yellow
△ △	818	073	502	baby pink
◐ ◐	988	243	1402	m forest green
♥ ♥	3731	076	506	dk dusty rose
★ ★	3833	1023	609	lt raspberry

### Backstitch in one strand

—	309	039	507	dk rose
—	646	858	1181	med grey
—	988	243	1402	m forest green
—	988	243	1402	m forest green

### French knots in one strand

○ ○	729	890	2209	m old gold
○ ○	729	890	2209	m old gold

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 41hx37w

Design size: 7x7cm (2¾x2¾in)

Stitch time: 3hrs

*Our stitcher says...* Bright colours make this a great stitch for a new year



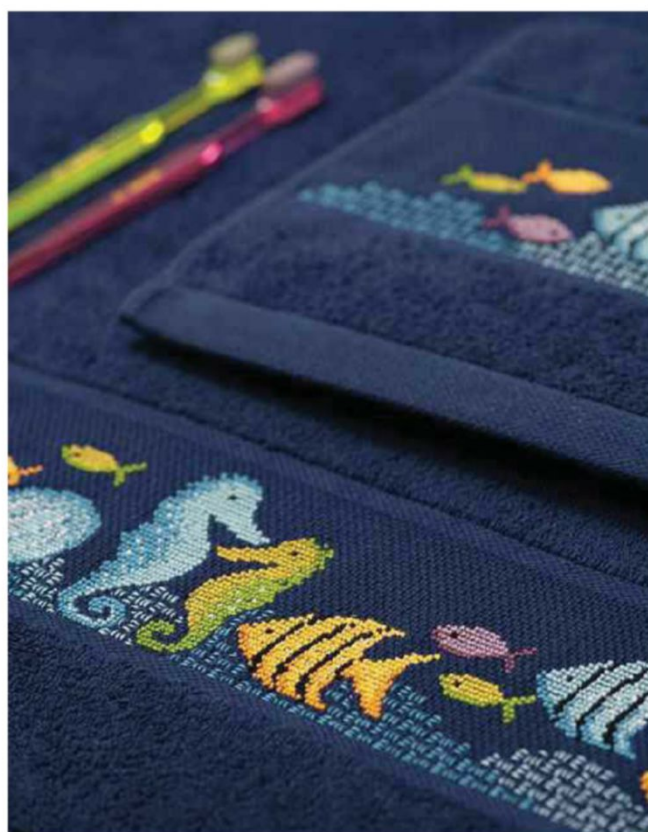


You can also use our charts to make matching bathroom items like this tissue box cover



# Tropical towels

Add a hint of paradise to your bathroom with our vibrant sealife towelling set designed by **Rico**



Our tropical fish design is sure to brighten any bathroom! With our fun tropical fish charts, you can stitch a wash cloth, wash mitt, bath towel, guest towel and tissue box cover.

## Brighten any bathroom with our fish design

The designs are stitched on ready-made towels with an aida panel. These are available in many colours and sizes, so you should be able to find something you love. See page 56 for our guide to getting the best results.





*Are you  
stitching this?*

Share your pics and  
stitching stories at  
[www.facebook.com/  
CSCMagazine](http://www.facebook.com/CSCMagazine)

## *Collection makes...*

### **MY VALENTINE**

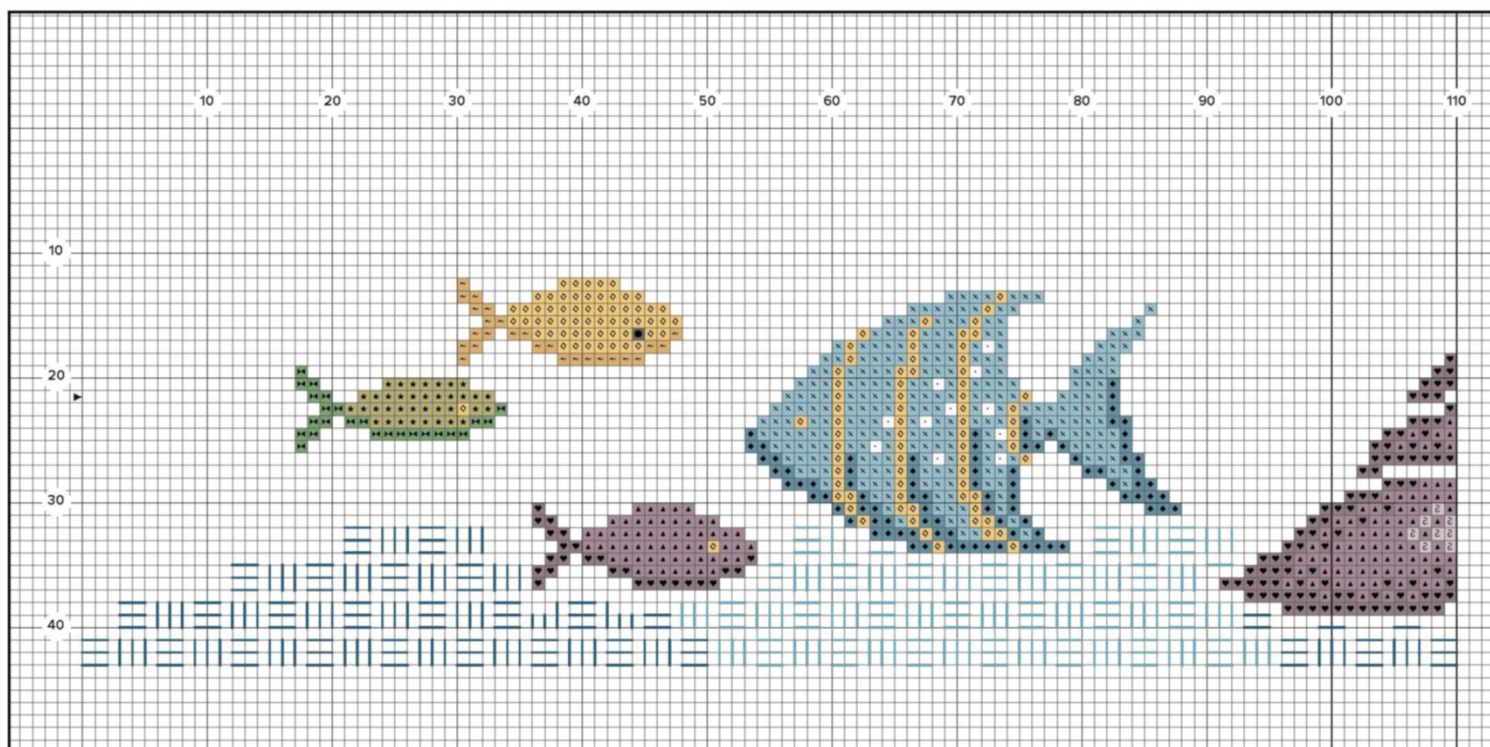
Stitch the two seahorses  
nuzzling for a sweet  
Valentine's Day card.

**WASH BAG** Stitch  
your favourite fish design  
onto evenweave and  
make into a drawstring  
washbag. You could add  
a waterproof lining.

### **TROPICAL TOTE**

Stitch a few fish on bright  
aida and appliqué onto  
a plain bag for a unique  
shopping accessory.





*“The fun fish motifs would make lovely cards to send in the post for any occasion”*



## Tropical towels

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

### Cross stitch in two strands

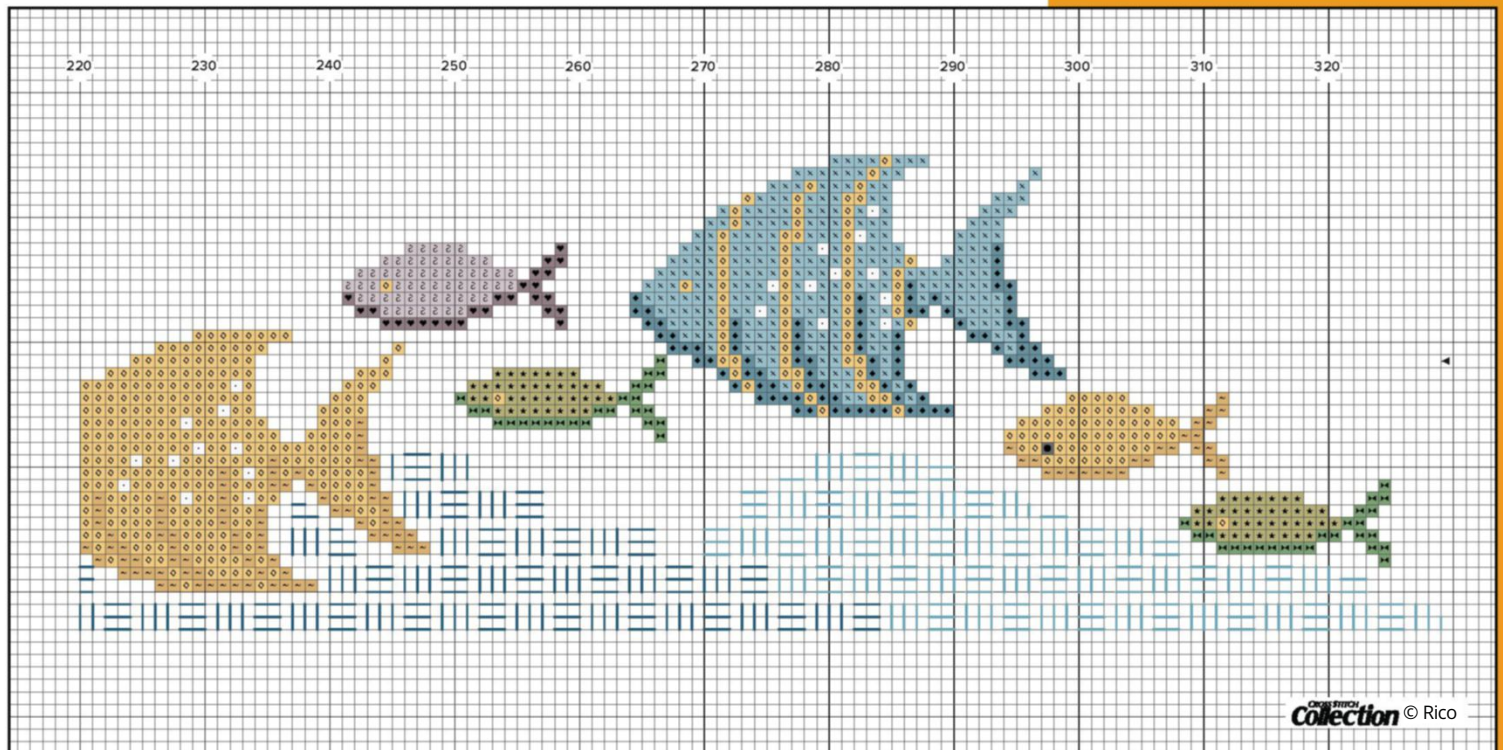
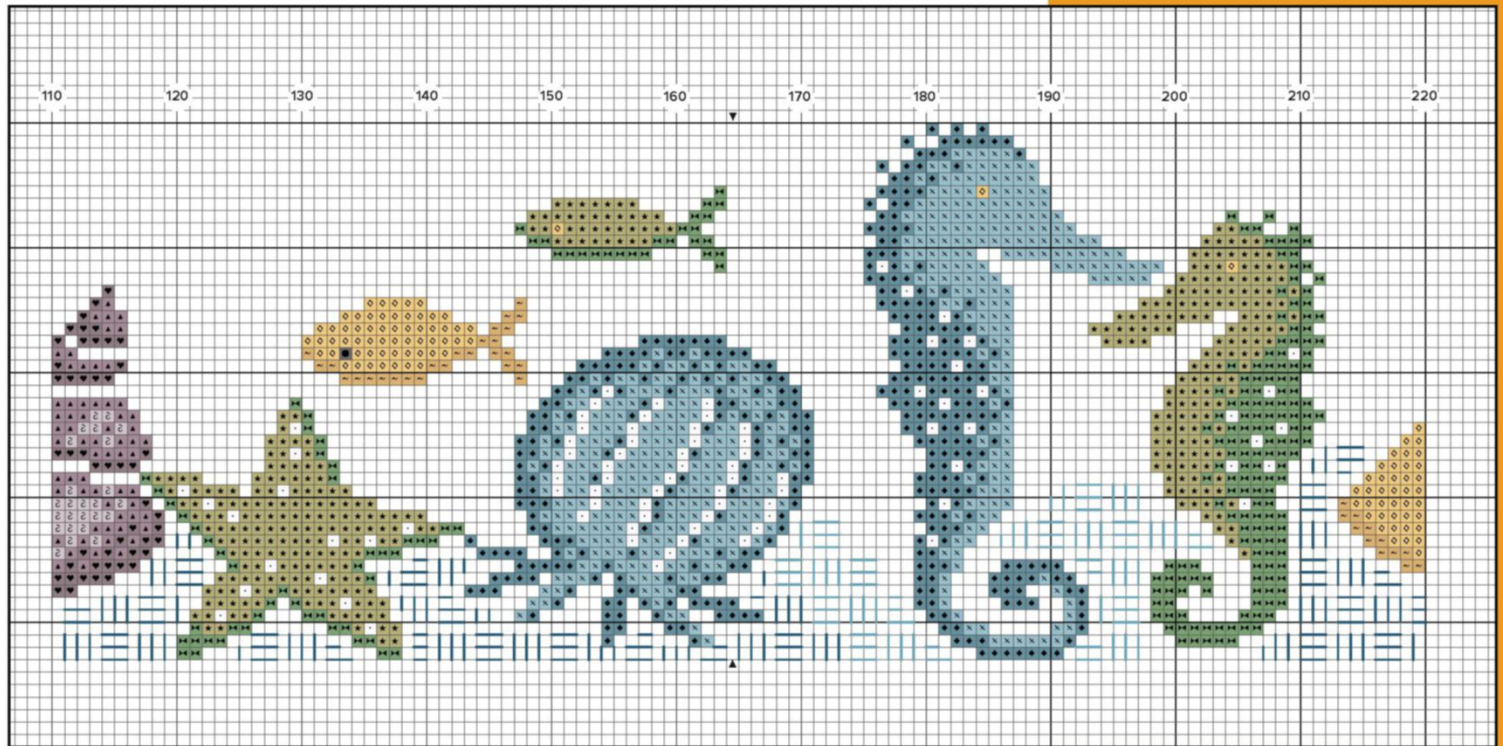
● ●	310	403	black	black
◇ ◇	728	305	108	topaz
★ ★	733	280	1611	m olive green
~ ~	783	306	2211	med topaz
◀ ▶	905	257	1412	dk parrot green
▲ ▲	3041	871	806	m antique violet
♥ ♥	3740	873	2614	antique violet
⌘ ⌘	3743	869	2611	lt antique violet
◆ ◆	3765	169	2506	peacock blue
× ×	3766	167	1111	lt peacock blue
• •	b5200	001	white	bright white

### Backstitch in one strand

—	3765	169	2506	peacock blue
	water pattern			
—	3766	167	1111	lt peacock blue
	water pattern			

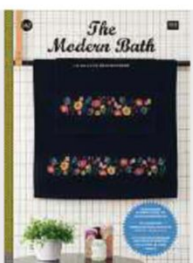
Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric.  
 Stitch count: 22hx164w tissue box and wash cloth;  
 22hx23w wash mitt; 44hx329w bath towel;  
 44hx267w guest towel  
 Design size: various  
 Stitch time: various





Collection © Rico

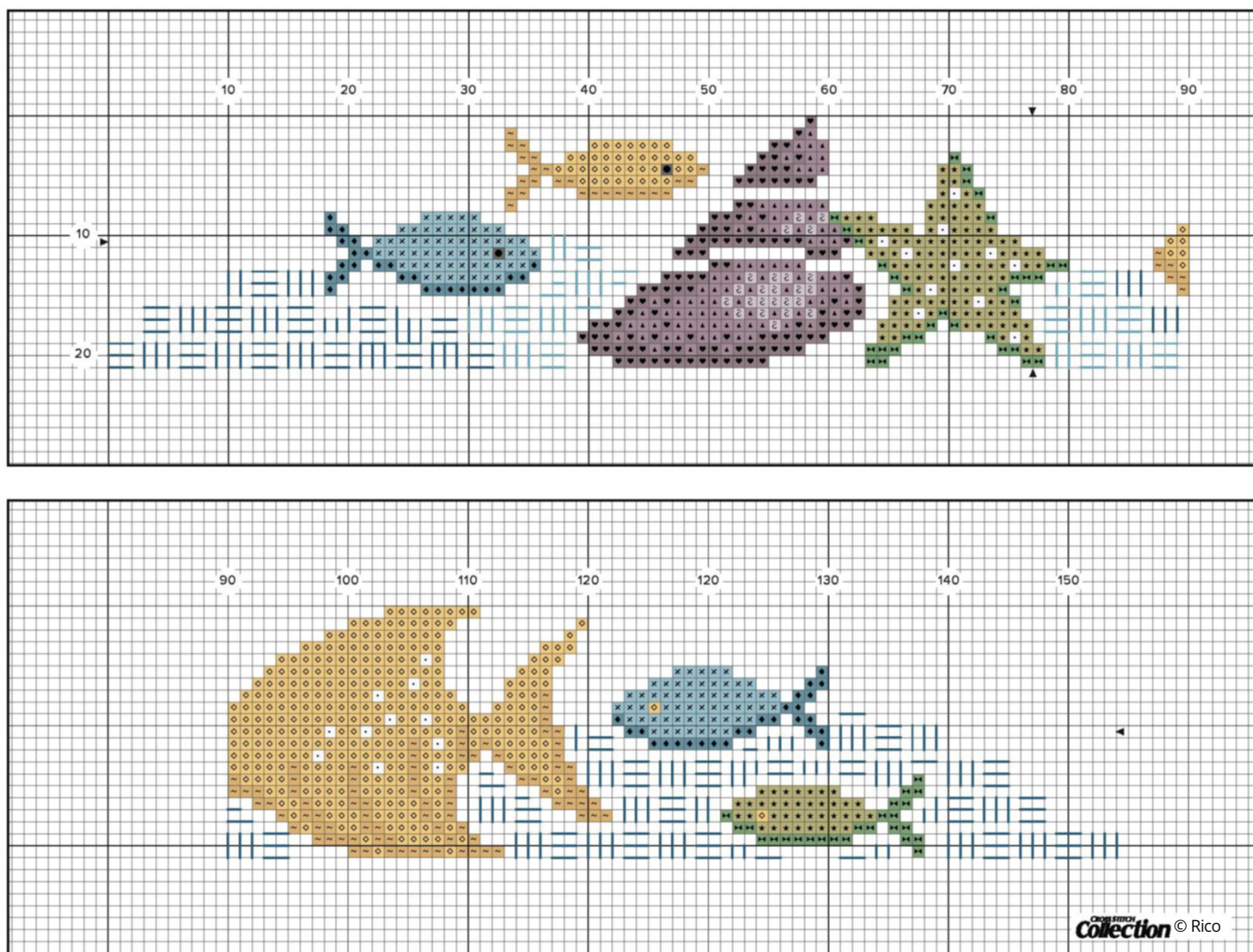
## More designs from Rico



If you enjoyed this project, you'll love the other projects in Rico's booklet 147, *The Modern Bath*, full of fresh embroidery ideas to beautify your bathroom. This is just one of the company's many inspiring chart books, all available from Rico stockists priced from £2.99.







You may have to add repeats or select just a few fish, depending on the space on your aida panel.

## How to stitch

### You will need...

Rico bath towel, guest towel, wash cloth, or wash mitt with 14 count aida panel  
Stranded cotton as listed in the key  
Size 24 tapestry needle  
For stockist details see page 58

### Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use three strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, and three for the backstitch.

### Stitching on towelling

1 FOLD your towel to find the centre and start stitching here. The aida panel is normally 14 count, but check this before you begin stitching.

2 KEEP your cross stitch as neat as you can and work in horizontal rows from left to right.

Bring the needle up at the bottom left of the stitch and down at the top right, repeat this across the row, and then on your return, complete each stitch working from the bottom right to the top left.

This should keep the stitches on the back of your towel looking neat. Remember to finish your ends securely as your towels will need to be laundered.



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It's easy to find essential stitching supplies or catch up on a missed copy of **Cross Stitch Collection** with our handy shopping guide

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### DKH CREATIONS

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### DP SOFTWARE

[www.dpsoftware.com](http://www.dpsoftware.com)

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Software for creating charts for cross stitch and tapestry from drawings or photos.

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[www.eframe.co.uk](http://www.eframe.co.uk)

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### HERITAGE CRAFTS

[www.hcrafts.com](http://www.hcrafts.com)

01889 575 256

Cross stitch designs and kits from artists including John Clayton, Peter Underhill and Valerie Pfeiffer.

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### Collection 266

- ◆ Stitch a sweet feast with our cupcake sampler
- ◆ Make alpine-inspired Christmas decorations
- ◆ Snuggle up with our autumn fox cub design by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Stitch harvest apples with atmospheric silhouettes
- ◆ Get ready for Strictly with our dazzling dance couple
- ◆ Finish your Venice street scene with the second half of Deb Lester's design



### Collection 268

- ◆ Capture the magic of a winter walk with our stunning cover project
- ◆ Make nativity decorations inspired by carols
- ◆ Stitch our cosy polar bear project designed by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- ◆ Make a stocking sampler
- ◆ Find the first half of our stunning Christmas Eve house design



### Collection 267

- ◆ Leap into Christmas with our magical flying reindeer
- ◆ Celebrate autumn with our woodland fairy and six seasonal pincushions
- ◆ Escape to the country with our Impressionist scenes
- ◆ Make a nostalgic paper doll picture
- ◆ Stitch a stunning festive sampler with the help of our giant fold out chart
- ◆ Make a golfer's day with our card and gift tag set



### Collection 269

- ◆ Complete our Christmas Eve cut through house design by Deb Lester
- ◆ Stitch our festive vintage lady with fluffy trim
- ◆ Make a recipe book to jot down all your Christmas food ideas
- ◆ Find winter pincushions by Sheena Rogers
- ◆ Make personalised gift tags for all the family

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# Stitch basics

Discover all you need to know to start cross stitching and lots of helpful hints to make you an expert. *We will help you make those first stitches...*

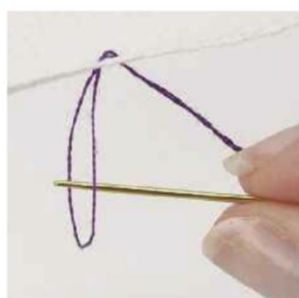
## Getting started

### Select your needle

Fabric	Count	Needle
Aida	<b>11-14</b>	Tapestry 24
Aida	<b>16-20</b>	Tapestry 26
Hardanger	<b>22</b>	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	<b>22-32</b>	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	<b>36 and over</b>	Tapestry 28

**TIP** To attach beads, use a beading needle or a size 28 tapestry needle.

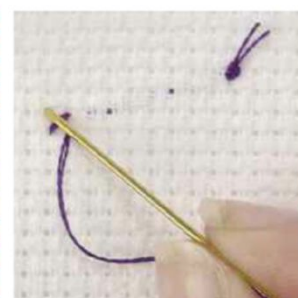
Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



**Loop start** When stitching with two threads  
Cut a single thread that's twice as long as you need, and thread both ends through your needle. Come up through the fabric and make a half stitch, then pass the needle through the loop that's formed at the back to secure it.



**Loose end start** When stitching with any number of threads  
Bring your needle up through the fabric, and be sure to leave a little piece of thread at the back. Hold this thread underneath the area to be stitched so that you will secure it with your first few cross stitches.



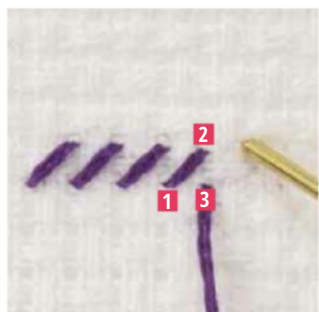
**Waste knot start** When stitching with any number of threads  
Knot the end of the thread and take the needle down through the fabric on the right side, a little away from your first stitch. As you stitch towards the knot, you will secure the thread at the back, then you can cut off the knot.

## Cross stitch made easy

Learn the basic techniques and you're ready for the projects!



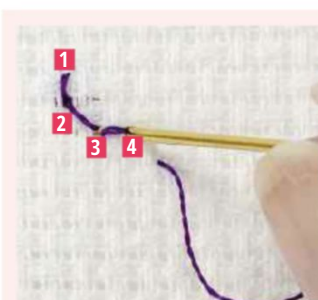
**Cross stitch on aida**  
Aida has groups of threads woven together to form distinct blocks – perfect for beginners. Cross stitches are made over one block of fabric. A quick way to work a line of stitches is to use half cross stitches going one way, then double back on yourself.



**Half cross stitch**  
This is simply half of an ordinary cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3 and so on. Half cross stitches are often used to create a paler area of stitching, for example for the sky or a background, which can give the impression of distance in a design.

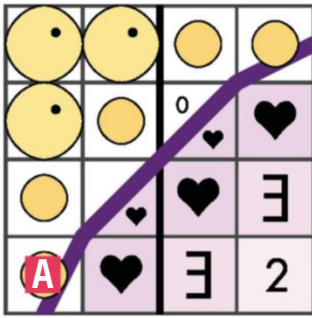


**Cross stitch on evenweave**  
Evenweave and linen fabrics are woven in single threads. Usually you will stitch over two threads, as you can see in the example shown above. As a result of this, a design stitched on 28 count evenweave will be the same size as one stitched on 14 count aida.



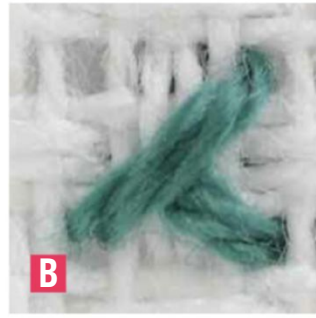
**Backstitch**, used for outlines or details, is shown as coloured lines on the chart and is done after the cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 2, up at 4 and so on, working over one block of aida or two threads of evenweave. **Long stitch** is worked the same way, but over more than one block of aida or more than two threads of evenweave.



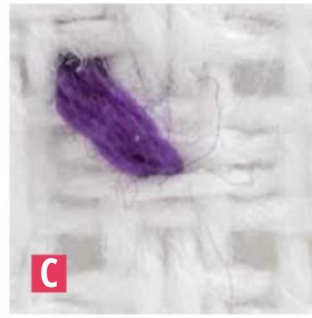


### Fractional stitches

A small symbol in the corner of a square (A) indicates a three-quarter stitch (B). If two different symbols occupy the



same square, make the less prominent colour a tiny quarter stitch (C) then work a three-quarter stitch in the other colour (D). The examples



shown are on aida where the centre block has to be pierced to make the quarter stitch (you may want to use a sharper needle for this).



**TIP** Fractionals are easier to work on evenweave as there is no block to be pierced.

## The final details

Many designs feature beads or French knots.

These are easy to do, but practise on scrap fabric first

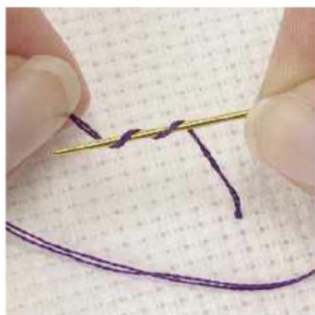


### Beads

Attach each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring the needle up at one bottom corner of the square, thread the bead on to the needle and complete the stitch. Use a beading needle or a needle with a small eye, and sewing cotton that matches the fabric or stitching. Attach more firmly with a whole cross stitch.

### French knots

1 Bring the needle up through the fabric. With thumb and forefinger, hold the thread a few inches away from where it came up. Keeping the thread taut, twist the needle twice around the thread.



2 Still holding the thread, push the needle down into the fabric close to where it came out, then pull the needle through gently to form a knot. Don't pull too hard.

**TIP** Vary the number of twists or strands to make larger or smaller French knots.

## When finished...

### Taking care of your stitching

Wash your work to refresh the fabric and threads – good quality threads won't run. Use warm water and rinse until the water runs clear. To iron, place your damp stitching on fluffy towels, with a clean white cloth over the top, and press with a warm iron until it is almost dry.

## Reading charts and keys

The charts are easy to follow when you know how

■ Each chart symbol represents one stitch on the fabric.

■ The key shows the thread colour that the symbols represent, for all stitches. Check how many strands of thread you need for each.

■ The thread codes in the key are for DMC, Anchor and Madeira colours. We list the threads used to stitch our model first (therefore the design may look slightly different if stitched using another brand).

■ The arrows on the chart point to the centre of the chart. On most designs, you start stitching here to ensure the design is central. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both ways; the crease in the middle corresponds to the chart centre where you'll make your first stitch.

### Daisy key

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

#### Cross stitch in two strands

00	white	002	2402	white
33	210	108	0802	light purple
55	550	101	0714	dark purple
♥♥	553	098	0712	med purple
♥♥	3866	926	2001	off white

#### Half cross stitch in two strands

55	550	101	0714	dark purple
----	-----	-----	------	-------------

#### Cross stitch in one strand of each colour

22	211	342	0801	lilac
				DMC Light Effects E5200

#### Backstitch in one strand

55	550	101	0714	dark purple
				all outlines and details

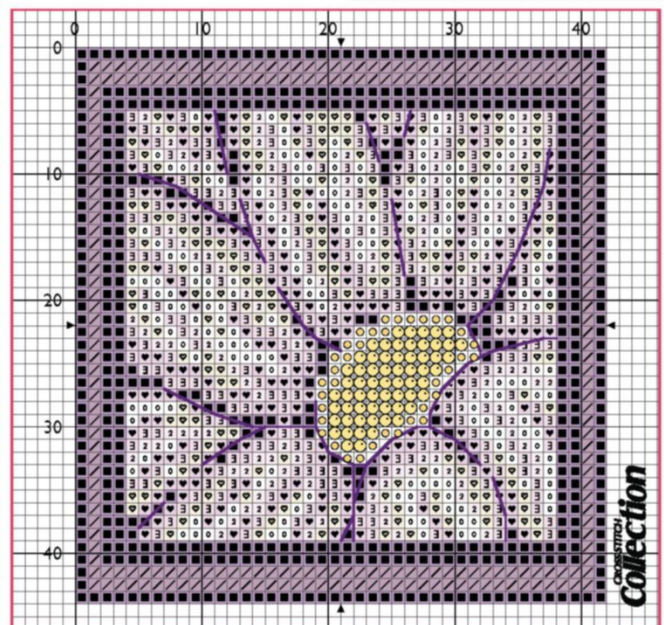
#### French knots in two strands

743	305	0113	yellow
			daisy centre details

#### Mill Hill seed beads

02002	yellow creme
	daisy centre details

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida  
Stitch count 44x42  
Design area 8x8cm (3¼x3in)





# Break time!

Relax and take a break with this month's prize crossword for a chance to win a cross stitch kit

## Across

- 1 American word for car exhaust (7)
- 5 More sugary (7)
- 9 Make these as a 'thank you' on page 50 (5)
- 10 Last-minute stitching for this on page 22 (9)
- 11 Way out (4)
- 12 and 22 Footwear worn and dropped by Cinderella (5,7)
- 13 Single instrument or voice performance (4)
- 16 Respected and looked up to (7)
- 17 Calendar of these on page 14 (6)
- 21 and 31 Scene featured on page 8 (6,9)
- 22 (see 12 across)
- 25 Hard shells with edible kernels (4)
- 27 Make a portrait of this on page 28 (5)
- 28 It comes out at night in the sky (4)
- 31 (see 21 across)
- 32 Measure of land area (5)
- 33 Playground devices that go up and down (7)
- 34 Thin (7)

## Down

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Mouse, Disney character (6)
- 2 Not allowed (9)
- 3 Opposite of first (4)
- 4 Brought back (8)
- 5 Emphasis or tension (6)
- 6 Not difficult (4)
- 7 Measure of speed in music (5)
- 8 Reaction or reply (8)
- 14 Person on a horse or bike (5)
- 15 Use these to start or finish stitching (5)
- 18 Protected (9)
- 19 What stars do in a lullaby (8)
- 20 Strikers in bells (8)
- 23 People (6)
- 24 Thing for rubbing out pencil or chalk (6)
- 26 Partially colour (5)
- 29 Continent containing Burma (4)
- 30 Cook in an oven (4)

## Prize crossword 269

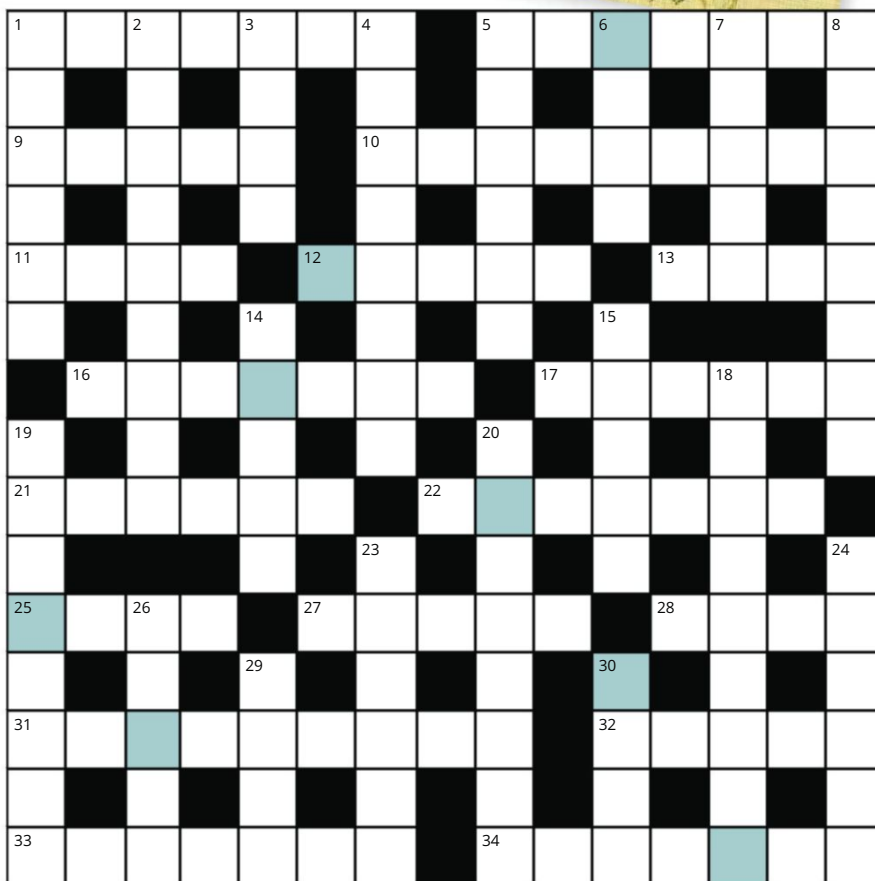
Across: 7 pioneer; 8 chances; 10 struggle; 11 cookie; 12 rests; 13 including; 16 distinctive; 19 willingly; 20 allow; 22 stanza; 24 shopping; 25 man-made; 26 pennies

Down: 1 fifties; 2 industrial; 3 reign; 4 chocolate; 5 into; 6 regions; 9 meaningless; 14 developing; 15 standards; 17 gift tag; 18 mounted; 21 cover; 23 name

Winning word: COUNT

## Your prize

One lucky winner will receive this traditional sampler kit by Moira Blackburn for Bothy Threads called Sheep May Safely Graze (£24.99). Worked on 16 count parchment coloured aida, the design is stitched in full cross stitch using stranded cotton, and contains an alphabet for adding a name and date. Sheep May Safely Graze (XS8) is available from [www.bothythreads.com](http://www.bothythreads.com).



## How to enter

Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form a technique for adding texture and dimension to stitching. Write your winning word and Crossword 270 on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: Cross Stitch Collection Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open 9th December 2016 – 5th January 2017. For competition terms and conditions go to page 59.

**Competition rules** To enter this competition, entries must be received between 9th December 2016 – 5th January 2017. The winners will be selected at random from all entries. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Further rules can be read in full on page 59.



# Next month

in your February issue...



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Never miss an issue  
of Cross Stitch  
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See page 40 or call  
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**FREE!**

GIANT FOLD OUT  
CHART WITH OUR  
BABY LOVE TREE TO  
WELCOME A NEW  
BABY BOY

## Stitching you can't miss...

- \* Make our gorgeous mini **heart sampler** with pearly buttons
- \* Stitch our **garden birds** botanical study by Amanda Butler
- \* Enjoy our needlecraft accessories inspired by **geometric tiles**

**PLUS** Tea and biscuit card, bicycle Valentine, dotty purse and more!

**ON SALE Friday 6th January**



# Baby Girl Love Tree

Our free giant chart this month is a beautiful tree by **Shannon Wasilieff**, festooned with sugary pink goodies to welcome a baby girl

Nothing gets our fingers itching to stitch like hearing there's a new baby on the way. We've designed our new series of Baby Love Trees to help you make an heirloom picture to welcome a new baby.

This month's cute Baby Girl Love Tree comes with an alphabet and numbers so that you can personalise the design. The second design in the series, the Baby Boy Love Tree, will be published in Issue 272 February.

There are so many adorable motifs on this design that it will be easy to stitch co-ordinating nursery items like blankets and bonnets. In fact, we think it could be hard to resist!

## Make it yours

### *You will need...*

**Zweigart 28 count Cashel** mushroom, ref: 3281/309, 45.5x38cm (18x15in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Beads** as listed in the key

**Frame** with a 30.5x25.5cm (12x10in) aperture

**For stockist details see page 58**

### Before you begin

**FIND** the measurements, stitch count, design size and time on the chart. Stranded cotton is used for both the cross stitch and backstitch, with the addition of beads. This design contains many small elements which sit on and around the tree branches, including fractionals, which add shape and detail to the bows, leaves, cubes and teddies. Careful counting is the key to finishing this design easily. Although not large, it is easy to stitch things in the wrong position, so it may be best to stitch the tree first and then add the motifs after. There is one backstitch colour used in this design. Use a sharp needle for the backstitch, to help position the stitches correctly. Three colours are used for the French knots, which are spread around, to add eyes to the









animals and dolls, tops of the crown, flower centres and button detail. This design is best worked on evenweave because of the fractionals, and in a mid-range colour.

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands, the backstitch is in one strand, and the French knots in one. The beads are added after the stitching is complete using matching sewing thread. Please refer to the key for placement.

## All in the detail

**USE** a frame when working this design, as a hoop may rest on the stitches and distort them.

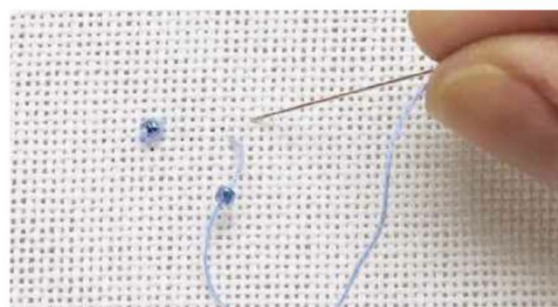
### THE TREE

The tree should be stitched first, in whole stitches without backstitch, as this will form the framework for the rest of your stitching. Count carefully, following the trail of each branch.

### THE LETTERING

Plan your lettering on graph paper before you start stitching. Work the letters and numbers in backstitch

Stitch the beads to look like one continuous length draped over the branches



using one strand of stranded cotton, adding a single cross stitch as dots. There is plenty of space to add more detail to the chart – perhaps the place and time of birth, weight, or siblings' names.

### THE DETAIL

Work the motifs one at a time, then finish the thread for each before moving on. Do not trail thread across the back of the stitching. The motifs are all backstitched in one strand of the same colour. Work the French knots next, there are three different colours, all in one strand.

### ADDING BEADS

It is important to securely attach the beads as they need to look like they are hanging on strings laced through the tree branches. You can either stitch once through the hole, or do a double stitch which will make sure they are held firmly. Bring your threaded needle up through a hole in the evenweave, which is at the bottom left of the square marked on your chart. Pass the needle through the bead and take it down through the fabric again at the top right, as shown in the photograph above. This is the usual method for attaching beads. For a firmer hold, bring the needle up again at the bottom right, twist the bead slightly so that you can push the needle through the centre hole again, and then take the needle back down in the top right hole of the fabric.



## YOUR FREE FOLD-OUT CHART NEXT ISSUE

Next month we have the second Baby Love Tree in the series, for a little boy. This cute sampler is in pretty shades of blue and yellow and has some lovely motifs like a car, boat and romper suit, as well as teddies, building blocks and bunting. Don't miss the giant chart next issue, when we bring you this charming sampler.





CROSS STITCH  
**Collection**

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STITCH THE FIRST PROJECT IN OUR  
NEW BABY LOVE TREE SERIES  
DESIGNED BY SHANNON WASILIEFF

January 2017 Issue 270

# Baby Girl Love Tree

## GIANT CHART

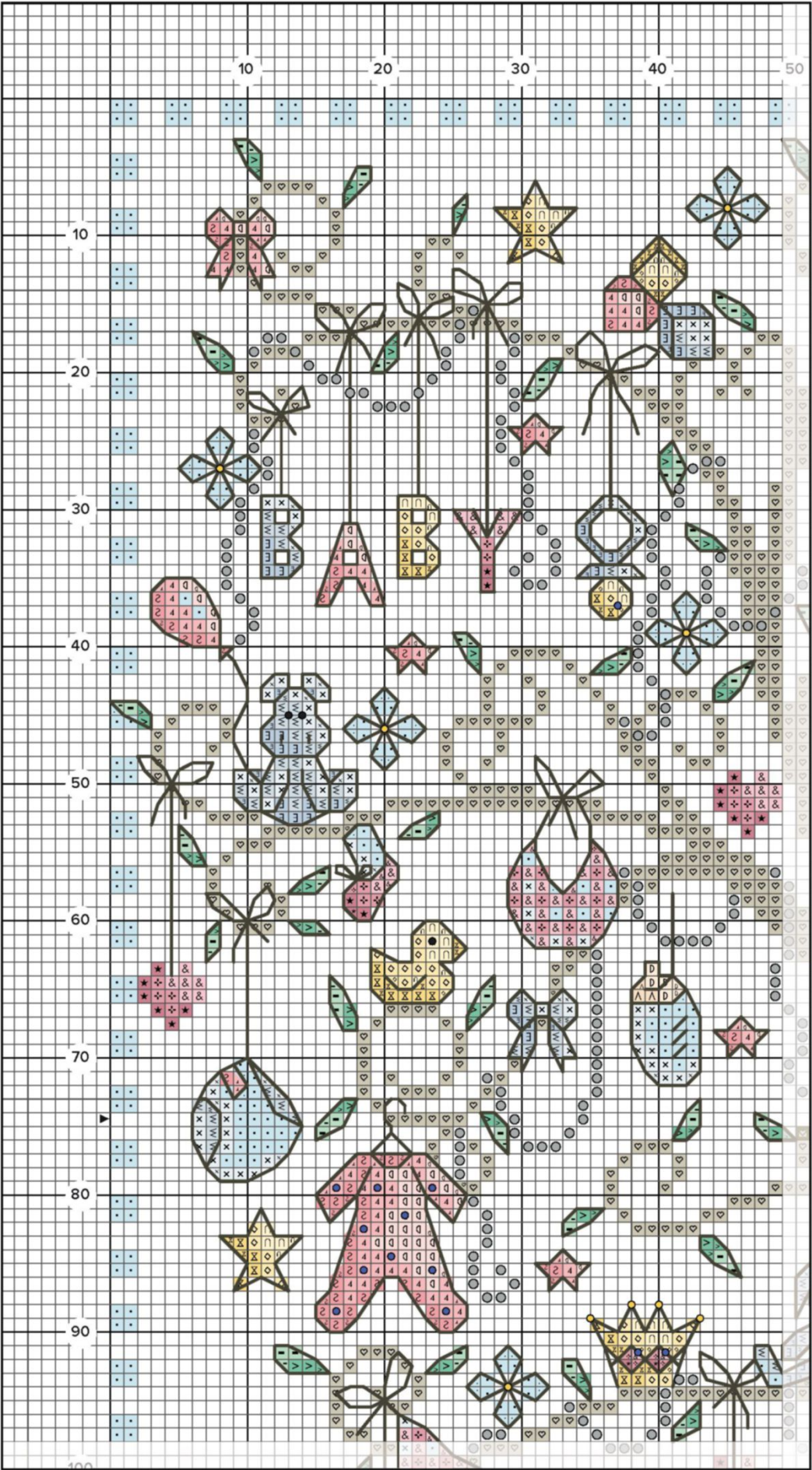


**Your FREE  
fold-out chart**





Bonus Giant Chart









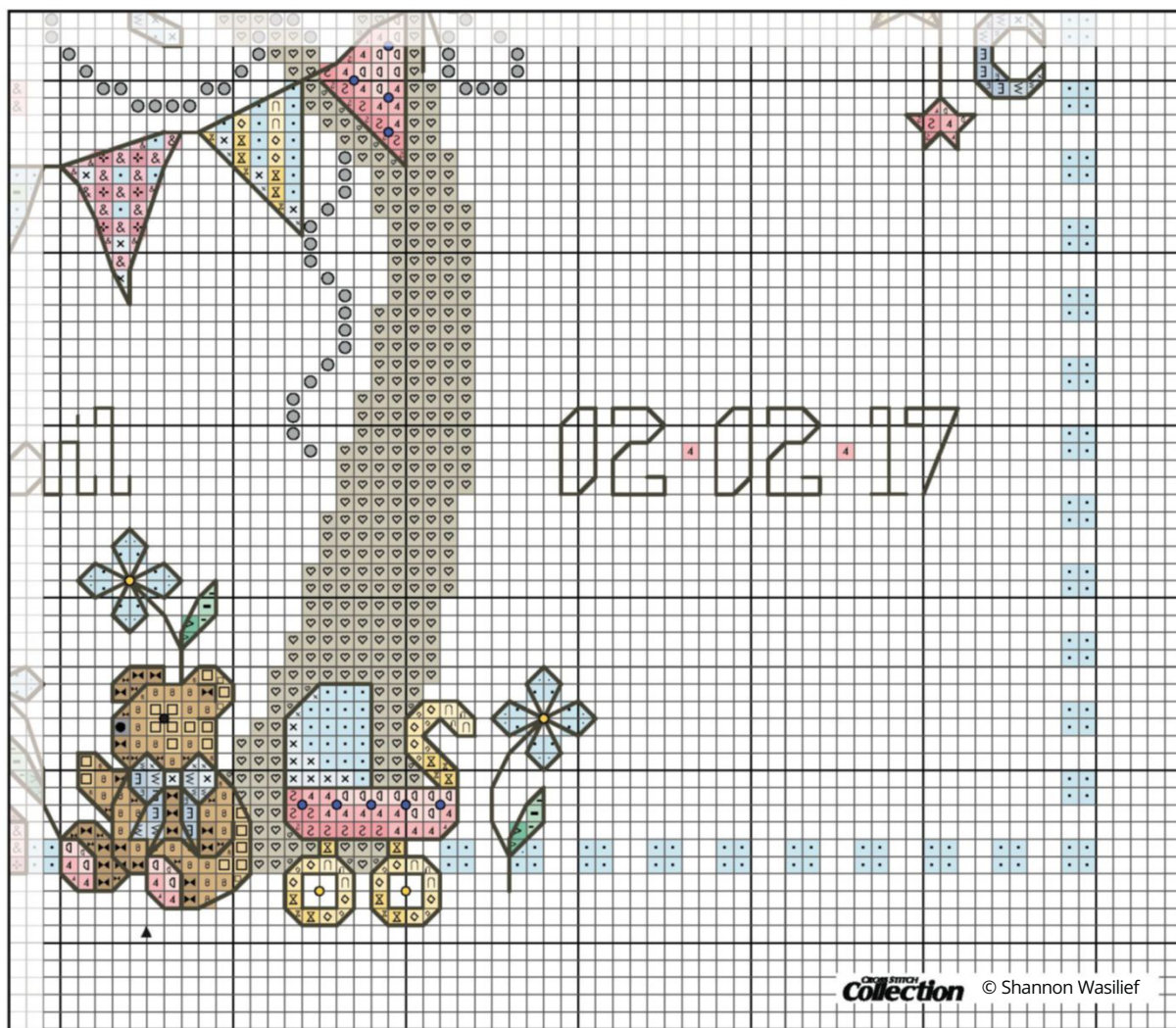
Bonus Giant Chart



This design would make an equally good birthday or Christening present, you could add a personal message as well as the important date.







# Stitch your tree

## You will need...

**Zweigart 28 count Cashel** mushroom,

ref: 3281/309,

45.5x38cm (18x15in)

**Stranded cotton** as listed in the key

**Size 26** tapestry needle

**Beads** as listed in the key

**Frame** with a 30.5x25.5cm (12x10in) aperture

**For stockist details see page 58**

## Stitching the design

**FOLD** the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton. The backstitch and French knots are in one strand of stranded cotton, and the beads should be added using matching sewing thread. Please refer to the key for

placement. An alphabet and numbers are provided to add your own detail to the design.

It will be best to use a frame when working this design, as a hoop may rest on the stitches and distort them. It is important not to trail thread across the back of your fabric as you move between the different areas of the design, to avoid it showing on the front.

**Designed by:** Shannon Wasilief

## Tip... Colour swap

In this design, and in next month's boy tree, it's easy to replace the main pink (or blue) shades with your own choice. Just be careful to choose a colour that blends well with the rest of the design. You could also lighten the look with a pale pastel fabric.



# Baby Girl Love Tree

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

## Cross stitch in two strands

● ●	414	235	1801	dk grey
□ □	676	891	2208	med yellow
8 8	729	890	2209	m old gold
⊗ ⊗	743	030	2294	yellow
◇ ◇	745	300	111	v pale yellow
≡ ≡	775	1031	1001	lt baby blue
◊ ◊	818	073	502	baby pink
⦿ ⦿	899	052	505	med rose
> >	912	209	1213	lt emerald green
Λ Λ	951	1010	2308	lt tawny
- -	955	206	1210	nile green
♥ ♥	3023	899	1902	lt khaki
☒ ☒	3325	129	1002	lt baby blue
4 4	3326	036	504	dk dusty pink
★ ★	3687	076	604	mauve
✦ ✦	3688	066	605	med mauve
& &	3689	049	607	lt mauve
x x	3756	1037	886	lt baby blue
D D	3770	1009	978	v lt tawny
∩ ∩	3823	386	2512	pale yellow

Stitch the beads to look like one continuous length draped over the branches

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

## Cross stitch in two strands

⌘ ⌘	3829	901	2210	dk old gold
. .	b5200	001	white	bright white

## Backstitch in one strand

—	414	235	1801	dk grey
outlines				

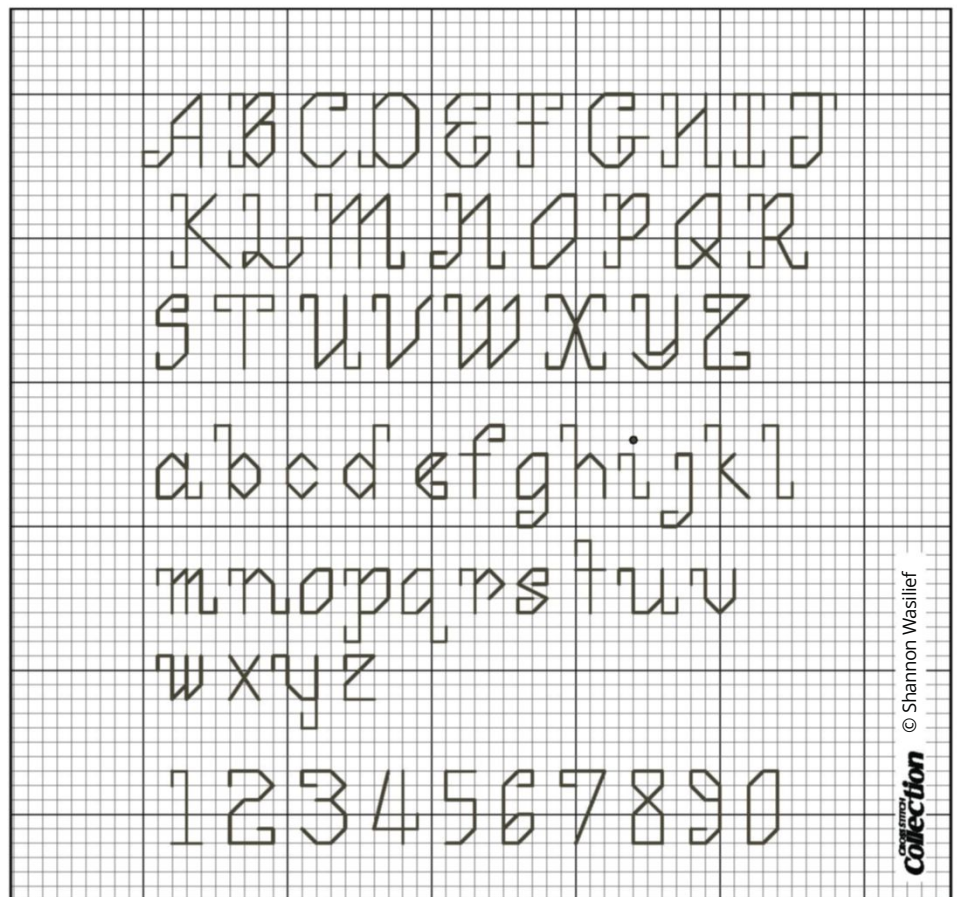
## French knots in one strand

● ●	414	235	1801	dk grey
eyes				
● ●	743	030	2294	yellow
flower centres				
● ●	b5200	001	white	bright white
decoration				

## Mill Hill seed beads

● ● ●	0479	white
decoration		

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.  
Stitch count: 149hx110w  
Design size: 25x19cm (10x7½in)  
Stitch time: 34hrs



© Shannon Wasilief

Shannon Wasilief Collection



# Next Month

in your February 271 issue...

**FREE!**

**GIANT FOLD OUT  
CHART WITH OUR  
BABY LOVE TREE TO  
WELCOME A NEW  
BABY BOY**



**ON SALE Friday 6th January**





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